

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problems Mailbox.**

#7 Atrial



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) Publication number : **0 668 350 A1**

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number : **95200348.1**

(22) Date of filing : **14.02.95**

(51) Int. Cl.⁸ : **C12N 15/12, C12N 15/85,
C07K 14/705, C12Q 1/68,
C12N 5/10, C12N 5/06,
A61K 39/395, A61K 35/12,
A61K 48/00, C12P 21/08,
G01N 33/53**

(30) Priority : **16.02.94 EP 94200337
21.12.94 EP 94203709**

(43) Date of publication of application :
23.08.95 Bulletin 95/34

(84) Designated Contracting States :
**AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC
NL PT SE**

(71) Applicant : **Akzo Nobel N.V.
Velperweg 76
NL-6824 BM Arnhem (NL)**

(72) Inventor : **Adema, Gosse Jan
Philips van Leydenlaan 25
NL-6525 EX Nijmegen (NL)
Inventor : Figdor, Carl Gustav
Philips van Leydenlaan 25
NL-6525 EX Nijmegen (NL)**

(74) Representative : **van Wezenbeek, Lambertus
A.C.M.
Akzo Nobel Pharma B.V.
P.O. Box 20
NL-5340 BH Oss (NL)**

(54) **Melanoma associated antigenic polypeptide, epitopes thereof and vaccines against melanoma.**

(57) The present invention describes a melanoma associated antigen known as gp100. Furthermore, peptides derived from said antigen are claimed. Gp100 and its peptides can be used in vaccines for the treatment of melanoma. Another aspect of the invention are host cells capable of expression of gp100 or the gp100-derived peptides. Furthermore, tumor infiltrating lymphocytes (TIL's) specifically recognizing gp100 are claimed, as are vaccines with these TIL's.

Furthermore, diagnostics for the detection of melanoma and for the monitoring of vaccination form part of the invention.

350 A1

The present invention is concerned with cancer treatment and diagnosis, especially with a melanoma associated antigen, epitopes thereof, vaccines against melanoma, tumour infiltrating T lymphocytes recognizing the antigen and diagnostics for the detection of melanoma and for the monitoring of vaccination.

Tumor cells may emancipate themselves from restrictive growth control by oncogene activation, and/or by the inactivation of tumor suppression genes. The course of tumor progression proceeds by a series of gradual, stepwise changes in different 'unit characteristics', i.e. phenotypic traits, many of which are known to be determined or at least influenced by the altered expression of defined oncogenes and/or tumor suppressive genes. Emancipation of the cell from immunological host restriction may follow multistep pathways similar to the emancipation from growth control.

A problem often encountered in cancer immunotherapy is the lack of immunogenicity of the tumor. This escape of the immune control system can be understood on basis of phenotype differences encountered in neoplastic cells (differences found in Burkitt's lymphoma cells according to Klein, G. and Boon, T., *Curr. Opinion in Immunol.* 5, 687-692, 1993):

- decreased ability to process and present antigens;
- decreased ability to stimulate autologous T cells;
- complete downregulation of immunogenic proteins associated with transformed cells;
- no or low expression of leukocyte adhesion molecules or other accessory molecules; and
- selective downregulation of certain MHC class I and class II alleles.

MHC Class I/II antigens are often downregulated in solid tumors. This may affect all class I/II antigens, or only part of them. Viral and cellular peptides that can sensitize appropriate target cells for cytotoxic T lymphocyte mediated lysis may fail to do so when produced in cells with a low level of expression of MHC class I antigen. Cytotoxic sensitivity may be induced, at least in some cases by raising the level of MHC class I/II antigen expression by interferon γ and tumor necrosis factor α .

However, during the stepwise changes from normal to tumor tissue tumor-associated antigens appear. These antigens can be exposed through various mechanisms:

- they can be molecules that are masked in some way during normal cell development, but where the neoplastic change induces removal of the masking protection for the immunosystem;
- deletion of some molecules from the plasma membrane may alter the profile of adjacent molecules in a given membrane patch, and thus, in effect generate a new profile that might become immunogenic to the host;
- a membrane alteration accompanying neoplastic transformation may expose new, previously hidden regions of a molecule, or may result in addition of new structural features to an existing molecule.
- shedding and disintegration of tumor cells may expose the immune system to nuclear, nucleolar, or cytoplasmic components that are normally hidden in the cell.

The characteristics of tumor-associated antigens are very much dependent on the origin of the tumor carrying them. The existence of antigens associated with animal tumors was documented in the last century, and the antigenic character of human cancers has been well established, primarily through recent studies with monoclonal antibodies.

Attempts to isolate and chemically characterize these antigens have encountered serious difficulties, many having to do with a lack of reagents suitable for precipitation of the antigen-bearing molecules from a solution.

Like many other stimuli, the tumor-associated antigens activate not one but a whole set of defense mechanisms - both specific and unspecific, humoral and cellular. The dominant role in in vivo resistance to tumor growth is played by T lymphocytes. These cells recognize tumor-associated antigens presented to them by antigen presenting cells (APC's), and will be activated by this recognition, and upon activation and differentiation, attack and kill the tumor cells. A special class of these sort of lymphocytes is formed by the tumor infiltrating lymphocytes (TIL's) which can be found in solid tumors.

It has already been suggested (EP 147,689) to activate T lymphocytes with an antigenic substance linked to an insoluble carrier in vitro and then to administer these activated lymphocytes to a tumor patient.

Conventional chemotherapy is relatively ineffective in the treatment of patients with metastatic melanoma, and approximately 6000 patients die of this disease in the United States each year.

Rosenberg et al. (*New Eng. J. Med.* 319(25), 1676-1681, 1988) have shown the beneficial effect of immunotherapy with autologous TIL's and interleukin-2 (IL-2) in melanoma patients.

This therapy constitutes of resection of the tumor deposit, isolation of the TIL's, in vitro expansion of the TIL's and infusion into the patient under concurrent treatment of high and toxicity inducing doses of IL-2.

The TIL's used by Rosenberg are directed to and able to recognize melanoma-associated antigens.

It has been our goal to isolate such a melanoma-associated antigen in order to be able to use the antigen and/or its epitopes for the development of an immunotherapy for melanoma patients.

Melanoma antigens have already been described by Old, L. (1981) who identified 6 antigenic glycoproteins and 3 glycolipids occurring in 120 melanoma cell lines.

Also vaccines with melanoma antigens have been described: in US patent no. 5,030,621 and 5,194,384 a polyvalent vaccine has been made by culturing melanoma cells and subsequent isolation of excreted melanoma-specific antigens from the culture medium.

Some specific antigens have already been proposed for therapy and diagnosis of melanoma type of cancer: the peptide p97 has been disclosed in US 5,262,177 and US 5,141,742, while a 35 kD protein has been mentioned in EP 529,007.

We now have found a melanoma-associated polypeptide, characterized in that it comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

This melanocyte lineage-specific antigenic polypeptide (also mentioned gp100) is recognized by the monoclonal antibody NKI-beteb, which antibody has proven suitable for diagnostic purposes. The antigens recognized by this antibody are intracellular proteins of approximately 10 kD (gp 10) and 100 kD (gp100). The latter is also detectable in a culture medium of melanoma cells (Vennegoor, C. et al, *Am. J. Pathol.* **130**, 179-192, 1988). It has also been found that the gp100 antigen reacts with other melanoma-specific antibodies such as HMB-50 (described by Vogel, A.M. and Esclamado, R.M., *Cancer Res.* **48**, 1286-1294, 1988) or HMB-45 (described by Gown, A.M. et al., *Am. J. Pathol.* **123**, 195-203, 1986). Since the proteins reacting with these monoclonal antibodies have been shown to be glycosylated in melanoma cells, differences have been found in mobility when analyzed by SDS-PAGE.

Although this gp100 antigen is predominantly expressed intracellularly, it has now been established that it is a suitable immunogenic antigen, because it has been demonstrated that these intracellular proteins can be processed and presented as peptides in the context of MHC molecules to cells of the immune system. In fact, tumor infiltrating lymphocytes derived from tumors of melanoma patients have been found which react with the antigen.

Therefore, the gp100 polypeptide is a potential target for cellular responses against carcinoma and thus a suitable subject for therapy and diagnosis in melanoma patients.

Gp100 is a type I transmembrane protein, which has a threonine-rich domain containing repetitive amino acid sequences present in the middle of the protein (amino acids 309-427). This threonine-rich domain, which may be subjected to extensive O-linked glycosylation, is preceded by a histidine-rich region (amino acids 182-313) and followed by a cysteine-rich domain (amino acids 475-566). Based on hydrophobicity plot analysis (Kyte, J. and Doolittle, R.F., 1982), a single transmembrane domain bordered by charged residues is present in the carboxy-terminal part (amino acids 591-611) of gp100. The predicted cytoplasmic domain is 45 amino acids long. Five putative N-linked glycosylation sites are present, consistent with gp100 being a glycoprotein.

The term "polypeptide" refers to a molecular chain of amino acids, does not refer to a specific length of the product and if required can be modified in vivo or in vitro, for example by glycosylation, amidation, carboxylation or phosphorylation; thus inter alia peptides, oligopeptides and proteins are included within the definition of polypeptide.

Of course, functional derivatives as well as fragments of the polypeptide according to the invention are also included in the present invention. Functional derivatives are meant to include polypeptides which differ in one or more amino acids in the overall sequence, which have deletions, substitutions, inversions or additions. Amino acid substitutions which can be expected not to essentially alter biological and immunological activities, have been described. Amino acid replacements between related amino acids or replacements which have occurred frequently in evolution are, inter alia Ser/Ala, Ser/Gly, Asp/Gly, Asp/Asn, Ile/Val (see Dayhof, M.D., *Atlas of protein sequence and structure*, Nat. Biomed. Res. Found., Washington D.C., 1978, vol. 5, suppl. 3). Based on this information Lipman and Pearson developed a method for rapid and sensitive protein comparison (*Science* **227**, 1435-1441, 1985) and determining the functional similarity between homologous polypeptides.

Functional derivatives which still show immunological activity towards the monoclonal antibody NKI-beteb or HMB-50 or HMB-45 are included within the scope of this invention.

Furthermore as functional derivatives of these peptides are also meant peptides derived from gp100 which are able to induce target cell lysis by tumor infiltrating lymphocytes.

In addition, with functional derivatives of these peptides are also meant addition salts of the peptides, amides of the peptides and specifically the C-terminal amides, esters and specifically the C-terminal esters and N-acyl derivatives specifically N-terminal acyl derivatives and N-acetyl derivatives.

The polypeptides according to the invention can be produced either synthetically or by recombinant DNA technology. Methods for producing synthetic polypeptides are well known in the art.

The organic chemical methods for peptide synthesis are considered to include the coupling of the required amino acids by means of a condensation reaction, either in homogenous phase or with the aid of a so-called solid phase. The condensation reaction can be carried out as follows:

a) condensation of a compound (amino acid, peptide) with a free carboxyl group and protected other reactive groups with a compound (amino acid, peptide) with a free amino group and protected other reactive groups, in the presence of a condensation agent;

b) condensation of a compound (amino acid, peptide) with an activated carboxyl group and free or protected other reaction groups with a compound (amino acid, peptide) with a free amino group and free or protected other reactive groups.

Activation of the carboxyl group can take place, inter alia, by converting the carboxyl group to an acid halide, azide, anhydride, imidazolidine or an activated ester, such as the N-hydroxy-succinimide, N-hydroxy-benzotriazole or p-nitrophenyl ester.

The most common methods for the above condensation reactions are: the carbodiimide method, the azide method, the mixed anhydride method and the method using activated esters, such as described in *The Peptides, Analysis, Synthesis, Biology* Vol. 1-3 (Ed. Gross, E. and Meienhofer, J.) 1979, 1980, 1981 (Academic Press, Inc.).

Production of polypeptides by recombinant DNA techniques is a general method which is known, but which has a lot of possibilities all leading to somewhat different results. The polypeptide to be expressed is coded for by a DNA sequence or more accurately by a nucleic acid sequence.

It has been found that the amino acid sequence of gp100 closely resembles the amino acid sequence of the already known melanoma-associated peptide pMel17, disclosed in Kwon, B.S. (1991).

The amino acid differences between gp100 and Pmel17 consist of substitutions at amino acid position 274 (T-C/PRO-LEU) and 597 (C-G/ARG-PRO) and a stretch of 7 amino acid absent in gp100 at position 587. A single nucleotide difference at position 762 (C-T) does not result in an amino acid substitution. Gp100 is also 80% homologous to a putative protein deduced from a partial cDNA clone (RPE-1) isolated from a bovine retinal cDNA library (Kim, R.Y. and Wistow, G.J., 1992) and 42% homologous to a chicken melanosomal matrix protein, MMP115 (Mochii, M., 1991). See also fig. 2.

Also part of the invention is the nucleic acid sequence comprising the sequence encoding the gp100 polypeptide.

Preferably the sequence encoding gp100 is the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

As is well known in the art, the degeneracy of the genetic code permits substitution of bases in a codon resulting in another codon still coding for the same amino acid, e.g. the codon for the amino acid glutamic acid is both GAT and GAA. Consequently, it is clear that for the expression of a polypeptide with an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2 use can be made of a derivative nucleic acid sequence with such an alternative codon composition thereby differing from the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

"Nucleotide sequence" as used herein refers to a polymeric form of nucleotides of any length, both to ribonucleic acid (RNA) sequences and to deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) sequences. In principle this term refers to the primary structure of the molecule. Thus, this term includes double and single stranded DNA, as well as double and single stranded RNA, and modifications thereof.

The nucleotide sequence of gp100 contains 2115 base pairs (bp) and terminates with a poly(A) tract of 15 nucleotides which is preceded by the consensus polyadenylation sequence AATAAA. An open reading frame (ORF) extending from nucleotide 22 through 2007 is present in gp100 DNA. This ORF starts with an ATG codon within the appropriate sequence context for translation initiation and codes for a protein of 661 amino acids. The amino-terminal 20 amino acids fit all criteria for signal sequences, including a potential cleavage site after ALA at position 20 (-1), which would indicate that mature gp100 contains 641 amino acids (approximately 70 kD).

The most striking difference between gp100 and Pmel17 cDNAs is the inframe deletion of 21 bp in gp100 cDNA (fig. 2). Comparison of the nucleotide sequence of genomic DNA with the sequence of gp100 cDNA revealed the presence of an intron (102 bp) just at the position of the 21 bp insertion in Pmel17 cDNA. The exon/intron boundaries nicely fit the consensus 5' donor and 3' acceptor splice site sequences (Padgett, 1986). In the genomic DNA, the sequence comprising the additional 21 bp in Pmel17 cDNA is located directly upstream of the 3' cleavage site used to generate gp100 RNA and is preceded by an alternative 3' acceptor splice site. Whereas the gp100-specific 3' acceptor splice site fits the consensus sequence, the Pmel17-specific 3' acceptor splice site appears to be sub-optimal in that it lacks a pyrimidine-rich region. Sub-optimal RNA processing sites are present in many alternatively processed messenger RNA precursors and have been implicated to function in regulation of alternative RNA processing (reviewed by Green, M.R., 1991). Collectively, these data prove that the transcripts corresponding to gp100 and Pmel17 cDNAs are generated by alternative splicing of a single primary transcript.

A further part of the invention are peptides, which are immunogenic fragments of the gp100 polypeptide.

Immunogenic fragments are fragments of the gp100 molecule, which still have the ability to induce an immunogenic response, i.e. that it is either possible to evoke antibodies recognizing the fragments specifically,

or that it is possible to find T lymphocytes which have been activated by the fragments.

As has been said above it has been known that the immunogenic action of tumor associated antigens is often elicited through a T cell activating mechanism (Townsend, A.R.M. and Bodmer, H., Ann. Rev. Immunol. 7, 601-624, 1989). Cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTLs) recognizing melanoma cells in a T cell receptor (TCR)-dependent and MHC-restricted manner have been isolated from tumor-bearing patients (reviewed by Knuth, A., 1992). Brichard et al. (1993) have shown that a peptide derived from tyrosinase, an other melanocyte-specific antigen, is recognized by a CTL clone.

It is known that the activation of T cells through the MHC molecule necessitates processing of the antigen of which short pieces (for example 8-12 mers) are presented to the T lymphocyte.

The immunogenic oligopeptides located in the gp100 sequence form also part of the invention.

We have found immunogenic peptide sequences of the gp100 sequence which are not only able to bind with the MHC I molecule, but which also have been demonstrated to recognize tumor infiltrating lymphocytes which have been isolated from a melanoma patient.

Several peptides have been found: the peptides having the amino acid sequences V-L-P-D-G-Q-V-I-W-V, M-L-G-T-H-T-M-E-V, R-L-M-K-Q-D-F-S-V, (V)-(W)-(K)-T-W-G-Q-Y-W-Q-V-(L) and L-L-D-G-T-A-T-L-R-L have been found to bind to the MHC HLA-A2.1 molecule. In addition, the latter two peptides are recognized by anti-melanoma cytotoxic T lymphocytes in the context of HLA-A2.1.

Preferably these peptides are flanked by non-related sequences, i.e. sequences with which they are not connected in nature, because it has been found that such flanking enhances the immunogenic properties of these peptides, probably through a better processing and presentation by APC's.

Another part of the invention is formed by nucleotide sequences comprising the nucleotide sequences coding for the above mentioned peptides.

Next to the use of these sequences for the production of the peptides with recombinant DNA techniques, which will be exemplified further, the sequence information disclosed in the sequence listings for gp100 or its epitopes can be used for diagnostic purposes.

From these sequences primers can be derived as basis for a diagnostic test to detect gp100 or gp100-like proteins by a nucleic acid amplification technique for instance the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or the nucleic acid sequence based amplification (NASBA) as described in USP 4,683,202 and EP 329,822, respectively.

With PCR large amounts of DNA are generated by treating a target DNA sequence with oligonucleotide primers such that a primer extension product is synthesized which is separated from the template using heat denaturation and in turn serves as a template, resulting in amplification of the target sequence. When RNA is to be amplified with PCR the RNA strand is first transcribed into a DNA strand with the aid of reverse transcriptase.

With the aid of NASBA large amounts of single stranded RNA are generated from either single stranded RNA or DNA or double stranded DNA. When RNA is to be amplified the ssRNA serves as a template for the synthesis of a first DNA strand by elongation of a first primer containing a ssRNA polymerase recognition site. The formed DNA strand in turn serves as the template for the synthesis of a second, complementary, DNA strand by elongation of a second primer, resulting in a double stranded active RNA-polymerase promoter site, and the second DNA serves as a template for synthesis of large amounts of the first template, the ssRNA, with the aid of RNA polymerase.

Detection of the amplified nucleotide sequence is established by hybridizing a complementary detection probe to the amplified nucleic acid. This probe can be labelled and/or immobilized on a solid phase. Detection of the label can be performed through methods known in the art. Detection of nucleic acids bound through the probe to the solid phase can be done by compounds capable of selective detection of nucleic acids.

As said before the nucleotide sequences can be used for the production of gp100 or one of its epitopes with recombinant DNA techniques. For this the nucleotide sequence must be comprised in a cloning vehicle which can be used to transform or transfect a suitable host cell.

A wide variety of host cell and cloning vehicle combinations may be usefully employed in cloning the nucleic acid sequence. For example, useful cloning vehicles may include chromosomal, non-chromosomal and synthetic DNA sequences such as various known bacterial plasmids, and wider host range plasmids such as pBR 322, the various pUC, pGEM and pBluescript plasmids, bacteriophages, e.g. lambda-gt-Wes, Charon 28 and the M13 derived phages and vectors derived from combinations of plasmids and phage or virus DNA, such as SV40, adenovirus or polyoma virus DNA (see also Rodriguez, R.L. and Denhardt (1988); Lenstra, 1990).

Useful hosts may include bacterial hosts, yeasts and other fungi, plant or animal hosts, such as Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cells or monkey cells and other hosts.

Vehicles for use in expression of the peptides will further comprise control sequences operably linked to the nucleic acid sequence coding for the peptide. Such control sequences generally comprise a promoter se-

quence and sequences which regulate and/or enhance expression levels. Furthermore an origin of replication and/or a dominant selection marker are often present in such vehicles. Of course control and other sequences can vary depending on the host cell selected.

Techniques for transforming or transfecting host cells are quite known in the art (see, for instance, Maniatis et al., 1982 and 1989).

It is extremely practical if, next to the information for the peptide, also the host cell is co-transformed or co-transfected with a vector which carries the information for an MHC molecule to which said peptide is known to bind. Preferably the MHC molecule is HLA-A2.1, HLA-A1 or HLA-A3.1, or any other HLA allele which is known to be present in melanoma patients. HLA-A2.1 is especially preferred because it has been established (Anichini A., 1993) that melanoma cells carry antigens recognized by HLA-A2.1 restricted cytotoxic T cell clones from melanoma patients.

Host cells especially suited for the expression of gp100 are the murine EL4 and P8.15 cells. For expression of gp100 human BLM cells (described by Katano, M., 1984) are especially suited because they already are able to express the MHC molecule HLA-A2.1.

Gp100 or any of its peptides or their nucleotide sequences mentioned above can be used in a vaccine for the treatment of melanoma.

In addition to an immunogenically effective amount of the active peptide the vaccine may contain a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

The immunogenicity of the peptides of the invention, especially the oligopeptides, can be enhanced by cross-linking or by coupling to an immunogenic carrier molecule (i.e. a macromolecule having the property of independently eliciting an immunological response in a patient, to which the peptides of the invention can be covalently linked).

Covalent coupling to the carrier molecule can be carried out using methods well known in the art, the exact choice of which will be dictated by the nature of the carrier molecule used. When the immunogenic carrier molecule is a protein, the peptides of the invention can be coupled, e.g. using water soluble carbodiimides such as dicyclohexylcarbodiimide, or glutaraldehyde.

Coupling agents such as these can also be used to cross-link the peptides to themselves without the use of a separate carrier molecule. Such cross-linking into polypeptides or peptide aggregates can also increase immunogenicity.

Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or diluents useful in the present invention include stabilizers such as SPGA, carbohydrates (e.g. sorbitol, mannitol, starch, sucrose, glucose, dextran), proteins such as albumin or casein, protein containing agents such as bovine serum or skimmed milk and buffers (e.g. phosphate buffer).

Optionally, one or more compounds having adjuvant activity may be added to the vaccine. Suitable adjuvants are for example aluminium hydroxide, phosphate or oxide, oil-emulsions (e.g. of Bayol F^(R) or Marcol 52^(R)), saponins or vitamin-E solubilisate.

The vaccine according to the present invention can be given inter alia intravenously, intraperitoneally, intranasally, intradermally, subcutaneously or intramuscularly.

The useful effective amount to be administered will vary depending on the age and weight of the patient and mode of administration of the vaccine.

The vaccine can be employed to specifically obtain a T cell response, but it is also possible that a B cell response is elicited after vaccination. If so, the B cell response leads to the formation of antibodies against the peptide of the vaccine, which antibodies will be directed to the source of the antigen production, i.e. the tumor cells. This is an advantageous feature, because in this way the tumor cells are combatted by responses of both immunological systems.

Both immunological systems will even be more effectively triggered when the vaccine comprises the peptides as presented in an MHC molecule by an antigen presenting cell (APC). Antigen presentation can be achieved by using monocytes, macrophages, interdigitating cells, Langerhans cells and especially dendritic cells, loaded with one of the peptides of the invention. Loading of the APC's can be accomplished by bringing the peptides of the invention into or in the neighbourhood of the APC, but it is more preferable to let the APC process the complete gp100 antigen. In this way a presentation is achieved which mimicks the in vivo situation the most realistic. Furthermore the MHC used by the cell is of the type which is suited to present the epitope.

An overall advantage of using APC's for the presentation of the epitopes is the choice of APC cell that is used in this respect. It is known from different types of APC's that there are stimulating APC's and inhibiting APC's.

Preferred are the listed cell types, which are so-called 'professional' antigen presenting cells, characterized in that they have co-stimulating molecules, which have an important function in the process of antigen presentation. Such co-stimulating molecules are, for example, B7, CTLA-4, CD70 or heat stable antigen

(Schwartz, 1992).

Fibroblasts, which have also been shown to be able to act as an antigen presenting cell, lacks these co-stimulating molecules.

It is also possible to use cells already transfected with a cloning vehicle harbouring the information for gp100 and which are cotransfected with a cloning vehicle which comprises the nucleotide sequence for an MHC class I molecule, for instance the sequence coding for HLA A2.1, HLA A1 or HLA A3.1. These cells will act as an antigen presenting cell and will present gp100-fragments in the MHC class I molecules which are expressed on their surface. It is envisaged that this presentation will be enhanced, when the cell is also capable of expressing one of the above-mentioned co-stimulating molecules, or a molecule with a similar function. This expression can be the result of transformation or transfection of the cell with a third cloning vehicle having the sequence information coding for such a co-stimulating molecule, but it can also be that the cell already was capable of production of co-stimulating molecules.

In stead of a vaccine with these cells, which next to the desired expression products, also harbour many elements which are also expressed and which can negatively affect the desired immunogenic reaction of the cell, it is also possible that a vaccine is composed with liposomes which expose MHC molecules loaded with peptides, and which, for instance, are filled with lymphokines. Such liposomes will trigger a immunologic T cell reaction.

By presenting the peptide in the same way as it is also presented in vivo an enhanced T cell response will be evoked. Furthermore, by the natural adjuvant working of the, relatively large, antigen presenting cells also a B cell response is triggered. This B cell response will a.o. lead to the formation of antibodies directed to the peptide-MHC complex. This complex is especially found in tumor cells, where it has been shown that in the patient epitopes of gp100 are presented naturally, which are thus able to elicit a T cell response. It is this naturally occurring phenomenon which is enlarged by the vaccination of APC's already presenting the peptides of the invention. By enlarging not only an enlarged T cell response will be evoked, but also a B cell response which leads to antibodies directed to the MHC-peptide complex will be initiated.

The vaccines according to the invention can be enriched by numerous compounds which have an enhancing effect on the initiation and the maintenance of both the T cell and the B cell response after vaccination.

In this way addition of cytokines to the vaccine will enhance the T cell response. Suitable cytokines are for instance interleukines, such as IL-2, IL-4, IL-7, or IL-12, GM-CSF, RANTES, tumor necrosis factor and interferons, such as IFN- γ .

In a similar way antibodies against T cell surface antigens, such as CD2, CD3, CD27 and CD28 will enhance the immunogenic reaction.

Also the addition of helper epitopes to stimulate CD4⁺ helper cells or CD8⁺ killer cells augments the immunogenic reaction. Alternatively also helper epitopes from other antigens can be used, for instance from heat shock derived proteins or cholera toxin.

Another part of the invention is formed by usage of gp100 reactive tumor infiltrating lymphocytes (TIL's). In this method the first step is taking a sample from a patient. This is usually done by resection of a tumor deposit under local anaesthesia. The TIL's present in this specimen are then expanded in culture for four to eight weeks, according to known methods (Topalian, S.L. et al., 1987). During this culture the TIL's are then checked for reactivity with gp100 or one of the epitopes derived from gp100. The TIL's which recognize the antigen are isolated and cultured further.

The tumor infiltrating lymphocytes, reactive with gp100, which are obtained through this method, form also part of the invention. One such TIL cell line, designated TIL 1200, has been found which specifically reacts with gp100 and its epitopes. This TIL 1200 cell line also expresses the MHC molecule HLA-A2.1. Furthermore expression of TCR α/β , CD3 and CD8 by this cell line has been demonstrated. Furthermore TIL 1200 recognizes transfectants expressing both HLA-A2.1 and gp100.

This TIL 1200 and other TIL's recognizing gp100 are suited for treatment of melanoma patients. For such treatment TIL's are cultured as stated above, and they are given back to the patients by an intravenous infusion. The success of treatment can be enhanced by pre-treatment of the tumor bearing host with either total body radiation or treatment with cyclophosphamide and by the simultaneous administration of interleukin-2 (Rosenberg, S.A. et al., 1986).

The TIL's infused back to the patient are preferably autologous TIL's (i.e. derived from the patient's own tumor) but also infusion with allogenic TIL's can be imagined.

A further use of the TIL's obtained by the method as described above is for in vivo diagnosis. Labelling of the TIL's, for instance with ¹¹¹In (Fisher, 1989) or any other suitable diagnostic marker, renders them suited for identification of tumor deposits in melanoma patients.

Another part of the invention is formed by the T cell receptor (TCR) expressed by gp100 reactive CTLs. As is well known in the art, the TCR determines the specificity of a CTL. Therefore, the cDNA encoding the

TCR, especially its variable region, can be isolated and introduced into T cells, hereby transferring anti-tumor activity to any T cell. Especially introduction of such a TCR into autologous T cells and subsequent expansion of these T cells, will result in large numbers of CTL suitable for adoptive transfer into the autologous patient.

Also cells harbouring this T cell receptor can be used for vaccination purposes.

A vaccine can also be composed from melanoma cells capable of expression of gp100. It is possible to isolate these cells from a patient, using anti-gp100 antibodies, such as NKI-beteb, but is also possible to produce such melanoma cells from cultured melanoma cell lines, which either are natural gp100-producers or have been manipulated genetically to produce gp100. These cells can be irradiated to be non-tumorigenic and infused (back) into the patient. To enhance the immunologic effect of these melanoma cells it is preferred to alter them genetically to produce a lymphokine, preferably interleukine-2 (IL-2) or granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulation factor (GM-CSF). Gp100⁺ melanoma cells can be transfected with a cloning vehicle having the sequence coding for the production of IL-2 or GM-CSF.

Infusion of such a vaccine into a patient will stimulate the formation of CTL's.

Another type of vaccination having a similar effect is the vaccination with pure DNA, for instance the DNA of a vector or a vector virus having the DNA sequence encoding the gp100 antigen or peptides derived therefrom. Once injected the virus will infect or the DNA will be transformed to cells which express the antigen or the peptide(s).

Antibodies to any gp100 peptide, including antibodies to (V)-(W)-(K)-T-W-G-Q-Y-W-Q-V(L), and L-L-D-G-T-A-T-L-R-L are also part of the invention.

Monospecific antibodies to these peptides can be obtained by affinity purification from polyspecific antisera by a modification of the method of Hall, R. et al. (1984). Polyspecific antisera can be obtained by immunizing rabbits according to standard immunisation schemes.

Monospecific antibody as used herein is defined as a single antibody species or multiple antibody species with homogeneous binding characteristics for the relevant antigen. Homogeneous binding as used herein refers to the ability of the antibody species to bind to ligand binding domain of the invention.

The antibody is preferably a monoclonal antibody, more preferably a humanised monoclonal antibody.

Monoclonal antibodies can be prepared by immunizing inbred mice, preferably Balb/c with the appropriate protein by techniques known in the art (Köhler, G. and Milstein C., 1975). Hybridoma cells are subsequently selected by growth in hypoxanthine, thymidine and aminopterin in an appropriate cell culture medium such as Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM). Antibody producing hybridomas are cloned, preferably using the soft agar technique of MacPherson (1973). Discrete colonies are transferred into individual wells of culture plates for cultivation in an appropriate culture medium. Antibody producing cells are identified by screening with the appropriate immunogen. Immunogen positive hybridoma cells are maintained by techniques known in the art. Specific anti-monoclonal antibodies are produced by cultivating the hybridomas in vitro or preparing ascites fluid in mice following hybridoma injection by procedures known in the art.

It is preferred to use humanized antibodies. Methods for humanizing antibodies, such as CDR-grafting, are known (Jones, P.T. et al., 1986). Another possibility to avoid antigenic response to antibodies reactive with polypeptides according to the invention is the use of human antibodies or fragments or derivatives thereof.

Human antibodies can be produced by in vitro stimulation of isolated B-lymphocytes, or they can be isolated from (immortalized) B-lymphocytes which have been harvested from a human being immunized with at least one ligand binding domain according to the invention.

Antibodies as described above can be used for the passive vaccination of melanoma patients. A preferred type of antibodies for this kind of vaccine are antibodies directed against the above-mentioned peptides presented in connection with the MHC molecule. To produce these kind of antibodies immunization of peptides presented by APC's is required. Such an immunization can be performed as described above. Alternatively, human antibodies to peptide-MHC complexes can be isolated from patients treated with a vaccine consisting of APC's loaded with one of said peptides.

The antibodies, which are formed after treatment with one of the vaccines of the invention can also be used for the monitoring of said vaccination. For such a method serum of the patients is obtained and the antibodies directed to the peptide with which has been vaccinated are detected. Knowing the antibody titre from this detection it can be judged if there is need for a boost vaccination.

Specific detection of said antibodies in the serum can be achieved by labelled peptides. The label can be any diagnostic marker known in the field of in vitro diagnosis, but most preferred (and widely used) are enzymes, dyes, metals and radionuclides, such as ⁶⁷Ga, ^{99m}Tc, ¹¹¹In, ^{113m}In, ¹²³I, ¹²⁵I or ¹³¹I.

The radiodiagnostic markers can be coupled directly to the peptides of the invention or through chelating moieties which have been coupled to the peptide directly or through linker or spacer molecules. The technique of coupling of radionuclides to peptides or peptide-like structures is already known in the field of (tumor) diagnostics from the numerous applications of labelled antibodies used both in in vivo and in in vitro tests.

Direct labelling of peptides can for instance be performed as described in the one-vial method (Haisma, 1986). A general method for labelling of peptides through chelators, with or without linker or spacer molecules, has for instance been described in USP 4,472,509 and USP 4,485,086. Chelators using a bicyclic anhydride of DTPA have been disclosed in Hnatowich, D.J. et al. (1983). Coupling through diamide dimercaptide compounds has been disclosed in EP 188,256.

The present invention is further described by way of example with reference to the accompanying figures, in which:

Fig. 1 shows the genomic organization of part of the human gp100/Pmel17 gene. A and A' represent the introns which are removed in transcripts corresponding to gp100 cDNA and Pmel17 cDNA respectively. Exon sequences are indicated in capitals and intron sequences as small letters. The best fit to the branch point sequence (Ruskin, B. et al., 1984) is underlined.

Fig. 2 shows an alignment of the carboxyterminal part of members of the gp100/pMel17 family. identical amino acids (-) and gaps (*) are indicated. Conserved cysteine residues (#) are indicated as well.

Fig. 3. (A) Gp100 deletion mutants encoding parts of the gp100 protein are shown (numbers indicate amino acids in the gp100 protein as indicated in SEQ ID NO:2)

(B) Recognition by TIL 1200 of cells transfected with HLA-A2.1 and the gp100 deletion mutants shown in Figure 3A.

Fig. 4. (A) Five peptides derived from the gp100 148-166 region, varying from an 8-mer to an 11-mer, were tested for recognition by TIL 1200. Specific lysis was detected at an effector to target ratio of 30:1.

(B) Titration of gp100 peptides identified in Figure 4A for recognition by TIL 1200 (E/T ratio 30:1).

Fig. 5. Binding of gp100 and viral epitopes to HLA-A2.1.

EXAMPLE 1 - MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF GP100

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Cells and monoclonal antibodies

The melanoma cell lines Mel-2a, M14, MEWO, BLM (Vennegoor et al., 1988; van Muijen et al., 1991; Bean et al., 1975; Katano et al., 1984) and the uveal melanoma cell line Mel 202 (Ksander et al., 1991) have been previously described. Isolation of normal human melanocytes from breast or foreskin was performed by the method of Eisinger and Marko (1982) with modifications by (Smit et al., 1993).

Mabs NK1-beteb and HMB-50 have been described previously (Vennegoor et al., 1988; Vogel and Esclamado, 1988). MAb HMB-45 was purchased from Enzo Biochem.

DNA constructs and transfections

The 2.2 kb Eco RI fragment containing gp100 cDNA was blunt-ended by filling in the ends with Klenow DNA Polymerase and then cloned in both orientations (pSVLgp100+ and pSVLgp100-) in the Sma I site of the eukaryotic expression vector pSVL (Pharmacia). pSVL contains the SV40 late promoter and polyadenylation site as well as the SV40 origin of replication, allowing a very high copy number during transient expression in COS-7 cells.

For the construction of the 3' truncated gp100 transcription unit pSVLgp100+(@QBS) we deleted the sequence between the Bgl II site in the 3' part of gp100 cDNA and the Sac I site in the multiple cloning site of the vector. The resulting construct encodes a truncated gp100 protein in which the carboxy-terminal 133 amino acids of gp100 are replaced by 4 amino acids (Arg-Ile-Gln-Thr) encoded by vector sequences.

Transient expression of the constructs in COS-7 cells was performed by using 40 µg/ml lipofectin reagent from BRL (Felgner et al., 1987) and 7.5 µg DNA as described previously (Loenen et al., 1991).

Immunofluorescence

Transfected COS-7 cells were prepared for immunofluorescence 48 hours after the addition of the lipofectin/DNA mixture as described previously (Vennegoor et al., 1988). After incubation with the primary antibody for 45 minutes, cells were washed and incubated with fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC)-labeled goat F(ab)₂ anti-mouse IgG (Nordic) for 30 minutes. Preparations were examined using a confocal laser scanning microscope at 488 nm (Biorad MRC 600).

Metabolic labeling, Immunoprecipitations and V8 protease mapping.

Immunoprecipitation experiments were performed on metabolically labeled (L-[³⁵S]-methionine/cysteine; Amersham) cells as described by Vennegoor et al. (1988) using either mAb NKI-beteb or HMB-50 covalently linked to protein A-CL 4B sepharose beads (Pharmacia). In some experiments tunicamycin (75 µg/ml, Calbiochem) was added during the pre-labeling period and remained present during the metabolic labeling reaction (12.5 minutes). Immunoprecipitates were analyzed under reducing conditions (5% β-mercaptoethanol in SDS-sample buffer) by SDS-PAGE using 5-17.5% polyacrylamide gradient gels. The relative molecular weight of the proteins was determined using co-electrophoresed, pre-stained molecular weight markers (BRL). Gels were treated with 1 M sodium salicylate (pH 5.4) prior to autoradiography (Kodak XAR).

V8 protease mapping was performed using the digestion for proteins in gel slices procedure described by Cleveland et al. (1977). Briefly, gel slices containing the 100 kD proteins were placed in the wells of a second SDS-gel (10%) and overlaid with *Staphylococcus aureus* V8 protease (2.5 µg/sample, Miles laboratories). After electrophoresis gels were treated as described above.

Molecular cloning of part of the gp100/Pmel17 gene.

Part of the gp100/Pmel17 gene was amplified by PCR (Taq DNA Polymerase was from Gibco) on human genomic DNA isolated from peripheral blood lymphocytes (PBL's) using the following primers: 1497/1516: 5'-TATTGAAAGTGCCGAGATCC-3' and 1839/1857: 5'-TGCAAGGACCACAGCCATC-3' as described previously (Adema and Baas, 1991). The PCR products were subsequently amplified using a nested set of primers containing an additional Eco RI site (5'-TATCTAGAATTCTGCACCAGATACTGAAG-3' and 5'-TATCTAGAATTCTGCAAGATGCCACGATCAG-3'). The underlined Eco RI sites in these primers were used to clone the PCR product in the Eco RI site of pUC 18.

RNA isolation and analysis

Total RNA was isolated using the guanidine thiocyanate procedure and centrifugation through a cushion of Cesium chloride (Chirgwin et al., 1979). cDNA was prepared using the Geneamp RNA PCR kit (Perkin Elmer Cetus) as indicated by the manufacturer. PCR analysis of the cDNAs was performed for 35 cycles in the presence of 3 mM MgCl₂ using primers 1497/1516 and 1839/1857 (see above) as described previously (Adema and Baas, 1991). The reaction products were size-fractionated on an agarose gel, blotted onto a nylon membrane (Hybond-N, Amersham) and hybridized to [³²P]-labeled oligonucleotide probes as described previously (Adema and Baas, 1991). As probes we used either a gp100-specific exon/exon junction oligonucleotide (5'-CTTCTTGACCAGGCATGATA-3') or a Pmel17-specific oligonucleotide (5'-TGTGAGAAGAATCCCAGGCA-3') which corresponds to 20 of the additional 21 nucleotides present in Pmel17 cDNA. In every hybridization experiment a spot blot containing an oligonucleotide comprising the Pmel17 exon/exon junction (5'-GCTTATCATGCCTGTGCCTGGATTCTCTCACAGGT-3') was included as a control.

Nucleotide sequence analysis

Gp100 cDNA and genomic DNA clones were sequenced by the dideoxy-nucleotide sequencing method (Sanger et al., 1977) using T7 DNA polymerase (Pharmacia). The sequence of both strands was determined in each case. Since the genomic DNA clones were obtained after PCR, the sequence of four independent clones was determined. Analysis of the DNA sequence was performed using the University of Wisconsin Genetics Computing Group sequence analysis programs (Devereux et al., 1984).

RESULTS

Expression of gp100 cDNA in non-pigmented COS-7 cells results in immunoreactivity with mAbs NKI-beteb, HMB-50 and HMB-45.

Expression of gp100 cDNA in gp100-negative BLM melanoma cells results in immunoreactivity with the melanocyte lineage-specific mAbs, NKI-beteb, HMB-50 and HMB-45. To determine whether expression of gp100-c1 cDNA in non-melanocytic cells also results in immunoreactivity with these mAbs, we performed transient expression experiments in COS-7 cells (monkey kidney fibroblasts) with constructs containing gp100 cDNA in the coding or non-coding orientation. Only COS-7 cells transfected with the construct containing the cDNA in the coding orientation (COS-7/pSVLgp100+) react with all three mAbs. These data demonstrate that immunoreactivity with mAbs NKI-beteb, HMB-50 and HMB-45 after expression of gp100 cDNA is not restricted

to melanocytic cells. In addition, these data show that the COS expression system can be used for further biochemical characterization of the proteins encoded by gp100 cDNA.

Analysis of the proteins encoded by gp100 cDNA.

To characterize the proteins encoded by gp100 cDNA, COS-7/pSVLgp100+ cells were metabolically labeled and subjected to immunoprecipitation with mAb NKI-beteb or HMB-50. MoAbs NKI-beteb and HMB-50 specifically immunoprecipitate proteins of approximately 100 kD (95-110 kD) from extracts of COS-7/pSVLgp100+ cells. The molecular weight of these proteins is similar (see also below) to those immunoprecipitated from extracts of metabolically labeled MEWO cells which express the antigens endogenously (Vennegoor et al., 1988). Consistent with previous reports (Vennegoor et al., 1988; Vogel and Esclamado, 1988), both mAbs also recognize a protein of 10 kD in extracts of MEWO melanoma cells. A protein of the same size reacts with mAb NKI-beteb in COS-7/pSVLgp100+ cells and can be discerned with mAb HMB-50 after prolonged exposure (not shown). We note that the amount of the 10 kD protein varied considerably between experiments. No specific proteins are immunoprecipitated by either of the mAbs from extracts prepared from COS-7 cells transfected with the construct containing the cDNA in the non-coding orientation.

Glycoproteins of approximately 100 kD reacting with mAbs NKI-beteb and HMB-50 have also been found in culture medium of melanoma cells (Vennegoor et al., 1988; Vogel and Esclamado, 1988). Comparison of the culture medium of metabolically labeled COS-7/pSVLgp100+ cells and MEWO cells reveals that both mAbs also recognize proteins of about 100 kD (see also below) in the culture medium of these cells. No proteins of 10 kD are immunoprecipitated by the mAbs from the culture medium of COS-7/pSVLgp100+ cells, as has been shown for melanoma cells. These data demonstrate that, as in melanoma cells, the proteins of about 100 kD recognized by mAbs NKI-beteb and HMB-50 in COS-7/pSVLgp100+ cells are secreted.

To exclude the possibility that the proteins detected by the mAbs are derived from endogenous genes induced after transfection with gp100 cDNA, we performed immunoprecipitation experiments with COS-7 cells expressing a 3' truncated gp100 transcription unit (see Materials & Methods for details). Proteins of approximately 85 kD are immunoprecipitated by both mAbs from COS-7 cells expressing this construct, consistent with a deletion of 129 amino acids. This finding provides direct evidence that the 100 kD protein recognized by mAbs NKI-beteb and HMB-50 in COS-7/pSVLgp100+ cells is encoded by gp100 cDNA.

The 100 kD protein encoded by gp100 cDNA is identical to gp100

The proteins of about 100 kD identified by mAbs NKI-beteb and HMB-50 in COS-7/pSVLgp100+ cells versus MEWO cells have a slightly different mobility when analyzed by SDS-PAGE. Since the proteins reacting with these mAbs have been shown to be glycosylated in melanoma cells (Vennegoor et al., 1988; Vogel and Esclamado, 1988), these differences could be due to altered glycosylation, an event frequently observed in the COS expression system. To confirm this, mAb NKI-beteb was used to immunoprecipitate proteins from MEWO cells and COS-7/pSVLgp100+ cells cultured in the presence of the glycosylation inhibitor tunicamycin. In both COS-7/pSVLgp100+ cells and MEWO cells the size of the proteins of about 100 kD is reduced to two protein bands of 90 kD and 85 kD, confirming that the observed difference in mobility is due to altered glycosylation.

To provide further evidence that the proteins recognized by mAb NKI-beteb in COS-7/pSVLgp100+ cells and MEWO cells are identical, we performed a V8 protease mapping experiment. The same protein fragments are obtained after V8 protease digestion of the major 100 kD protein isolated from COS-7/pSVLgp100+ cells or MEWO cells. We conclude from these data that gp100 cDNA encodes the melanocyte lineage-specific glycoprotein gp100 recognized by mAbs NKI-beteb and HMB-50 in melanoma cells.

Gp100 is a type I transmembrane protein highly homologous to Pmel17

The nucleotide sequence of gp100 cDNA was determined. It contains 2115 base pairs (bp) and terminates with a poly(A) tract of 15 nucleotides which is preceded by the consensus polyadenylation sequence AATAAA (Proudfoot and Brownlee, 1976). An open reading frame (ORF) extending from nucleotide 22 through 2007 is present in gp100 cDNA. This ORF starts with an ATG codon within the appropriate sequence context for translation initiation (Kozak, 1987) and codes for a protein of 661 amino acids (SEQ ID NO:1). The amino-terminal 20 amino acids fit all criteria for signal sequences, including a potential cleavage site after ALA at position 20 (von Heyne, 1986), which would indicate that mature gp100 contains 641 amino acids (approximately 70 kD). Based on hydrophobicity plot analysis (Kyte and Doolittle, 1982), a single transmembrane domain bordered by charged residues is present in the carboxy-terminal part (amino acids 591-611) of gp100. The predicted cy-

toplasmic domain is 45 amino acids long. Five putative N-linked glycosylation sites are present, consistent with gp100 being a glycoprotein. Furthermore, a histidine-rich domain (amino acids 182-313), a threonine-rich domain (amino acids 309-427) containing repetitive amino acid sequences, and a cysteine-rich domain (475-566 amino acids) are present.

A data base search (Pearson and Lipman, 1988; Altschul et al., 1990) revealed that gp100 is almost identical to Pmel17, another melanocyte-specific protein (Kwon et al., 1991). The amino acid differences between gp100 and Pmel17 consist of substitutions at position 274 (T-C/PRO-LEU) and 597 (C-G/ARG-PRO) and a stretch of 7 amino acid absent in gp100 at position 587 (see also figure 2). A single nucleotide difference at position 782 (C-T) does not result in an amino acid substitution. Gp100 is also 80% homologous to a putative protein deduced from a partial cDNA clone (RPE-1) isolated from a bovine retinal cDNA library (Kim and Wisotow, 1992) and 42% homologous to a chicken melanosomal matrix protein, MMP115 (Mochil et al., 1991).

Gp100 and Pmel17 are encoded by a single gene

The most striking difference between gp100 and Pmel17 cDNAs is the inframe deletion of 21 bp in gp100 cDNA. One possible explanation for this difference is the existence of two closely related genes. However, since both cDNAs have identical nucleotide sequences in their 3' untranslated regions this explanation is not likely. Another possibility is that both cDNAs correspond to transcripts generated by alternative splicing of a single primary transcript. To test this hypothesis, we used PCR to analyze the genomic DNA corresponding to the part of the gp100 gene surrounding the putative alternative splice site. Comparison of the nucleotide sequence of this genomic DNA with the sequence of gp100-c1 cDNA revealed the presence of an intron (102 bp) just at the position of the 21 bp insertion in Pmel17 cDNA (Figure 1). The exon/intron boundaries nicely fit the consensus 5' donor and 3' acceptor splice site sequences (Padgett et al., 1986). In the genomic DNA, the sequence comprising the additional 21 bp in Pmel17 cDNA is located directly upstream of the 3' cleavage site used to generate gp100 RNA and is preceded by an alternative 3' acceptor splice site (Fig. 1). Whereas the gp100-specific 3' acceptor splice site fits the consensus sequence, the Pmel17-specific 3' acceptor splice site appears to be sub-optimal in that it lacks a pyrimidine-rich region (Fig. 1). Sub-optimal RNA processing sites are present in many alternatively processed messenger RNA precursors and have been implicated to function in regulation of alternative RNA processing (reviewed by Green, 1991). Collectively, these data prove that the transcripts corresponding to gp100 and Pmel17 cDNAs are generated by alternative splicing of a single primary transcript and thus originate from a single gene.

Expression of gp100 and Pmel17 RNAs in cells of the melanocytic lineage

The finding that gp100 and Pmel17 RNAs arise by alternative splicing of a single primary transcript, raises the question whether this occurs in a developmentally regulated manner. An RNA species of 2.5 kb is the major RNA product detected by gp100 cDNA on Northern blots containing RNA isolated from melanocytic cells. The same results were obtained by Kwon et al. (1987) using Pmel17-1 cDNA as a probe. However, neither of the probes discriminate between gp100 and Pmel17 RNAs. To investigate the expression of gp100 and Pmel17 RNAs in cells of the melanocytic lineage, we performed a reverse transcriptase/polymerase chain reaction (RT/PCR) assay followed by Southern blotting and hybridization to either a gp100 specific exon/exon junction- or a Pmel17-specific oligonucleotide probe (see Materials & Methods). Gp100 and Pmel17 spliced products are both detected in 3 out of 4 cutaneous melanoma cells, in uveal melanoma cells as well as in neonatal and adult melanocytes. No products are detected with either probe in gp100-negative BLM melanoma cells. These results demonstrate that in all melanocytic cells examined, gp100 and Pmel17 RNAs are expressed simultaneously.

EXAMPLE 2 - RECOGNITION OF GP100 BY TIL's

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Cell culture

TIL's were generated by growth of single cell suspensions of metastatic melanomas with 1,000 U/ml IL-2 (Cetus Corp., Emeryville, CA) and were grown as described previously (Kawakami, 1992). Melanoma cell lines Mel 397 and Mel 624 were obtained and grown as reported previously (Kawakami, 1992). HLA-A2.1⁺ melanoma cell lines MeWo (Bean, 1975) and BLM (Katano, 1984) and murine P815 transfectants were grown in DMEM (Gibco, Paisley, Scotland, UK) plus 7.5% heatinactivated FCS (Gibco). JY, K562, and murine EL4 transfectants

were cultured in Iscoves medium (Gibco) plus 7.5% FCS. Murine cells were grown in the presence of $5 \cdot 10^5$ M β -ME, and all media contained antibiotics. Isolation of normal melanocytes from foreskin was performed by the method of Eisinger and Marko (1982) with modifications as described previously (Smit, 1989). Melanocytes from passages two to three were used in chromium release assays.

DNA Constructs and transfection.

Plasmid pBJ1gp100neo was obtained by cloning the EcoRI fragment of a lambda gp100 cDNA clone in the coding orientation in the polylinker pBJ1-neo (Lin, 1990). Plasmid pBA2 containing a genomic fragment encoding HLA-A2.1 and human β -2 microglobulin was kindly provided by E.J. Baas (The Netherlands Cancer Institute, Division of Biochemistry, Amsterdam, The Netherlands). Plasmid pGK-hyg contains the hygromycin phosphotransferase gene (Te Riele, 1990). For the introduction of the HLA-A2.1 and human β -2 microglobulin genes, EL4 cells were transfected with 18 μ g of pBA2 and 2 μ g of pGK-hyg DNA according to the calcium phosphate coprecipitation procedure (Graham, 1973) using Calciumphosphate Transfection Systems (Gibco BRL, Gaithersburg, MD). 24 h after transfection, 500 μ g/ml hygromycin B (Calbiochem-Novabiochem Corp., La Jolla, CA) was added to the medium for the selection of stable transfectants. HLA-A2.1⁺ gp100⁺ EL4 cells were obtained by transfection of stable HLA-A2.1⁺ EL4 clones with 20 μ g of pBJ1-gp100neo DNA by calcium phosphate coprecipitation and were selected with 1 mg/ml G418. P815 A2.1 and P815 A2.1/gp100 cells were kindly provided by P. Coulie (Ludwig Ins., Brussels, Belgium).

mAb and flow cytometry

Phenotypic analysis of melanomas, transfectants, and normal melanocytes was performed by indirect immunofluorescence followed by flow cytometry using a FACScan^R (Becton Dickinson & Co., Mountain View, CA). Purified anti-gp100 mAb NKI-beteb (Vennegoor, 1988) and anti-HLA-A2 mAbs BB7.2 (culture supernatant; Parham, 1981) and MA2.1 (ascites 1:500 dilution; Parham, 1978) were used as primary reagents. FITC conjugated GAM-IgG-F(ab')₂ (Zymed Laboratories, Inc. S. San Francisco, CA) was used for the second incubation. For the detection of the intracellular gp100 antigen cells were permeabilized in 0.01% digitonin and were subsequently fixed in 1% paraformaldehyde.

Chromium Release Assay

Chromium Release assays were performed as described previously (Kawakami, 1992). Briefly, 10^6 target cells were incubated with 100 μ Ci Na⁵¹CrO₄ (Amersham Int., Bucks, UK) for 1 hour. Various amounts of effector cells were then added to $2 \cdot 10^3$ target cells in triplicate wells of U-bottomed microtiter plates (Costar, Badhoevedorp, The Netherlands) in a final volume of 150 μ l. After 5 hours of incubation, part of the supernatant was harvested and its radioactive content measured. Target cells were incubated for 48 hours with 50 U/ml human (Boehringer, Ingelheim, Germany) or mouse recombinant IFN- (TNO, Rijswijk, The Netherlands) before use in chromium release assays.

TIL 1200

In search of gp-100 specific cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTLs) we focused on HLA-A2.1 as a restriction element because of its widespread occurrence in caucasians and its presumptive dominant role in CTL reactivity against melanoma. A HLA-A2.1⁺ TIL line, TIL 1200 (Shilyansky, J. et al, 1994), was used for this study. This TIL line expresses TCR α/β , CD3 and CD8.

RESULTS

HLA-A2.1-restricted killing of melanoma tumor cells by TIL 1200 corresponds to gp100 expression.

Cytolytic activity of TIL 1200 was analyzed using a panel of human melanoma cell lines. TIL 1200 efficiently lysed HLA-A2.1⁺ Mel 624 and MeWo melanoma tumor cells, which both express gp100, whereas no reactivity towards HLA-A2.1⁻ gp100⁺ Mel 397 cells was seen. It is interesting to note that we observed that HLA-A2.1⁺ BLM melanoma cells are also resistant to lysis by TIL 1200. Furthermore, HLA-A2.1⁺ EBV-transformed B cells (JY), which also lack gp100 expression, and K562 cells, were not lysed by TIL 1200. Together, these data demonstrate that TIL 1200 displays HLA-A2.1-restricted killing which correlates with gp100 expression.

TIL 1200 recognizes HLA-A2.1⁺gp100⁺transfectants.

EL4 cells cotransfected with a genomic fragment encoding HLA-A2.1 together with a plasmid conferring hygromycin resistance were selected and analyzed by flow cytometry. HLA-A2.1 expressing cells were subsequently transfected with pBJ1-gp100neo, which encodes gp100 and confers resistance to G418. Stable transfectants were selected and were screened for gp100 expression using mAb NK1/beteb. In collaboration with P. Coulie a similar panel of transfectants was generated in murine P815 cells (P815 A2.1 and p815 A2.1/gp100). Using these murine transfectants as target cells in chromium release assay, we clearly observed gp100 specific lysis by TIL 1200. The percent specific lysis (25-35%, E/T 30:1) of murine EL4 A2.1/gp100 and P815 A2.1/gp100 transfectants by TIL 1200 was somewhat lower compared with that observed with HLA-A2.1⁺ gp100⁺ human melanoma cells (45-60%, E/T 30:1). This difference may be explained by nonmatched accessory molecules between human TIL's and murine transfectants. To overcome this we introduced the gp100 antigen into human HLA-A2.1⁺ gp100⁻ BLM melanoma cells by transfection of pBJ1-gp100neo. Stable BLM gp100 clones were tested in chromium release assays using TIL 1200. BLM gp100 clones proved to be as sensitive to lysis by TIL 1200 as Mel 624 and MeWo cells which express the gp100 antigen endogenously. The gp100 specificity of TIL 1200 was further demonstrated by the absence of lysis of G418-resistant BLM cells not expressing gp100, excluding the possibility that neomycin-derived peptides are recognized.

EXAMPLE 3**Mapping of gp100 epitopes recognized by TIL 1200 using gp100 deletion mutants.**

Basically, two methods are commonly used in the art to map epitopes recognized by anti-tumor CTL.

1. According to the HLA binding motifs peptides can be synthesized that reside in the target protein. These peptides can then be loaded onto cells bearing the appropriate restriction element, and used as targets for CTL.

2. Generation of deletion mutants and expression of these deletion mutants in for example COS-7 cells together with the appropriate restriction element. These transfected cells are then co-cultured with CTL and target cell lysis or TNF- α /IFN γ production by the CTL are measured. Transfectants not recognized by the CTL do not express the peptide.

Both methods have been done in search for the epitopes of the invention.

TIL 1200 mediated lysis of peptide loaded T2 cells.

We have chemically synthesized gp100 peptides potentially recognized by TIL 1200. Peptides were synthesized by a solid phase strategy on an automated multiple peptide synthesizer (Abimed AMS 422) using Fmoc-chemistry (Nijman, 1993). Actual binding of the peptides to HLA-A2.1 was established with a recently described peptide binding assay making use of processing defective T2 cells (Nijman, 1993). This analysis resulted in the identification of gp100 derived peptides that strongly bind to HLA-A2.1. Subsequently, T2 cells loaded with the peptides that strongly bind to HLA-A2.1 were subjected to lysis by TIL 1200 using a standard chromium release assay. In this way the peptide L-L-D-G-T-A-T-L-R-L has been identified according to this procedure.

EXAMPLE 4**gp100 Epitope identified by deletion mapping**

Gp100 cDNA was inserted into expression vectors pBJ1neo, pCMVneo (Baker et al, 1990) and pSVL. For the generation of a gp100 cDNA lacking the coding sequences for the peptide 457-466, PCR reactions were performed with the following combinations of oligonucleotides:

5'-CATGGAAGTGACTGTCTACC-3' / 5'-CTGAGCGAATTCGGAACCTGTAATACTTTCCG-3', and 5'-CTGAGCGAATTCGTGAAGAGACAAGTCCCCC-3' / 5'-TCACAGCATCATATGAGAGTAC-3' using the full length gp100 cDNA as a template. PCR products were digested with Eco RI, ligated and served as a template for a nested PCR using the following primers: 5'-GCACAGGCCAACTGCAGA-3' / 5'-TTCAGTATCTGGTG-CAGAAC-3'. The Kpn I-Cla I fragment from this PCR product was then exchanged with the corresponding fragment in pCMVgp100neo to generate pCMVgp100DEL454-481neo. Gp100 cDNA mutants DEL149-654 and DEL454-654 were obtained by deletion of the 1.7 kb Hind III and the 0.8 kb Eco RI fragments from pBJ1gp100DEL454-481neo, respectively. Gp100 cDNA mutants DEL100-654, DEL194-528 and DEL167-508

were obtained by deletion of the Bgl I-Sac I, BamH I-Bgl II and Apa I-Nsi I fragments from pSVLgp100 respectively.

BLM cells were transfected with 20 µg of pCMVgp100DEL454-481neo DNA according to the calcium phosphate coprecipitation procedure (Graham and van der Eb, 1973) using Calciumphosphate Transfection Systems (BRL, Gaithersburg, MD) and were selected with 1 mg/ml G418 (Gibco, Paisley, Scotland UK).

COS-7 cells were cotransfected with 5 µg of pBJ1HLA-A2.1neo and 5 µg of pBJ1 or pSVL plasmids containing either full length or deleted gp100 cDNAs using the DEAE-dextran/chloroquine method (Seed and Aruffo 1987). After 48 hours of transfection COS-7 cells were used as stimulator cells in IFN-γ release experiments.

Release assays

Chromium release assays were performed as in Example 2.

For IFN-γ release assays 10⁵ TIL 1200 responder cells were incubated together with 5·10⁴ transiently transfected COS-7 stimulator cells in 300 µl medium in the presence of 100 U/ml IL-2 in a flat bottom 96 well microtiter plate. After 24 hours of incubation, 100 µl of supernatant was harvested and was screened for the presence of IFN-γ using a hIFN-γ IRMA immunoradiometric assay kit (Megenix Diagnostics SA, Fleurus, Belgium).

Results

Figure 3A shows the gp100 cDNA deletion mutants that were generated. As shown in Figure 3B, TIL 1200 specifically secreted IFN-γ when stimulated with COS-7 cells transfected with HLA-A2.1 and the full length gp100 cDNA. Again TIL 1200 reactivity was observed against the gp100DEL454-481 mutant. From the other gp100 deletion mutants, only the DEL100-661 and DEL149-661 constructs were not recognized, thereby excluding the possibility that TIL 1200 was reactive with a peptide located N-terminal from amino acid position 148 in the gp100 protein. Also the C-terminal region of the gp100 protein could be excluded, because TIL 1200 reactivity could be observed using a mutant construct, DEL454-661, encoding the first 453 amino acids of gp100. From the observation that a construct coding within this N-terminal region up to amino acid 166 was able to stimulate TIL 1200 (DEL167-508), it was concluded that the epitope recognized was located between amino acids 148-166 of the gp100 protein.

HLA-A2.1 binding

Several motifs have been described for 9-mer or 10-mer peptides binding to HLA-A2.1 (Falk et al., 1991; Hunt et al., 1992; Ruppert et al., 1993) that were deduced from naturally processed and synthetic HLA-A2.1 binding peptides. The 148-166 region of the gp100 protein was screened against these motifs and a number of peptides were synthesized that fitted into a somewhat broader motif, including threonine residues at position two. These peptides were loaded onto HLA-A2.1⁺ T2 cells and tested for their ability to induce TIL 1200 mediated target cell lysis (Figure 4A). The five tested peptides were all able to sensitize T2 cells for lysis by TIL 1200 when used at a concentration of 10 µg/ml. All these peptides contain the 8-mer peptide TWGQYWQV, corresponding to gp100 amino acids 155-162. All peptides were titrated to evaluate their relative ability to sensitize T2 target cells for lysis by TIL 1200. Figure 4B shows that the 9-mer peptide KTWGQYWQV can be recognized by TIL 1200 when applied at a concentration of 3 ng/ml, whereas the other peptides had to be applied at higher concentrations.

A comparison was made of the peptides KTWGQYWQV (gp100 amino acids 155-162), LLDGTATLRL (gp100 amino acids 457-466) and YLEPGPVTA (gp100 amino acids 280-288, identified by Cox et al., 1994) with three known viral epitopes presented in HLA-A2.1: the influenza matrix 58-66 peptide (Gotch et al., 1987), the HIV polymerase 510-518 peptide (Tsomides et al., 1991) and the HIV gp120 197-205 peptide (Dadaglio et al., 1991). The HLA-A2.1 binding capacity of the above mentioned epitopes was analyzed by means of an indirect binding assay using the processing defective cell line T2 (Nijman et al., 1993). Shortly: T2 cells were incubated with 12.5 µg of the epitopes. HLA-A2.1 stabilization at the cell surface was determined by flow cytometry using mAb BB7.2. The Fluorescence Index is expressed as the experimental mean fluorescence divided by the mean fluorescence that is obtained when T2 cells are incubated with a HLA-A2.1 non-binding peptide at a similar concentration.

Using this assay, a similar HLA-A2.1 stabilization with the gp100 280-288 epitope and the tested viral epitopes. Both epitopes of the invention (KTWGQYWQV and LLDGTATLRL) bind with a somewhat lower affinity to HLA-A2.1 (Figure 5). From this it is concluded that the gp100 epitopes bind to HLA-A2.1 with distinct affinities.

References.

- Adema, G.J. and Baas, P.D. (1991) *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Comm.* **178**, 985-992
- Altschul, S.F., Gish, W., Miller, W., Myers, E.W. and Lipman, D.J. (1990) *J. Mol. Biol.* **215**, 403-410
- 5 Anichini, A. et al. (1993), *J. Exp. Med.* **177**, 989-998
- Baker, S.J. (1990), *Science* **249**, 912-915
- Bean, M.A., Bloom, B.R., Herberman, R.B., Old, L.J., Oettgen, H.F., Klein, G. and Terry, W.D. (1975) *Cancer Res.* **35**, 2902-2907
- Brichard et al. (1993) *J. Exp. Med.* **178**, 489-495
- 10 Chirgwin, J.M., Przybyla, A.E., MacDonald, R.J. and Rutter, W.J. (1979) *Biochemistry* **18**, 5294-5299
- Cleveland, D.W., Fischer, S.G., Kirschner, M.W. and Laemmli, U.K. (1977) *J. Biol. Chem.* **253**, 1102-1106
- Cox, A.L., Skipper, J., Chen, Y., Henderson, R.A., Darrow, T.L., Shabanowitz, J., Engelhard, V.H., Hunt, D.F., Slingluff, C.A. (1994) *Science* **264**, 716
- Dadaglio, G., Leroux, A., Langlade-Demoyen, P., Bahraoui, E.M., Traincard, V., Fisher, R., Plata, F., (1991) *J. Immunol.* **147**, 2302.
- 15 Devereux, J., Haeblerli, P., and Smithies, O. (1984) *Nucleic Acids Res.* **12**, 387
- Eisinger, M. and Marco, O. (1982) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **79**, 2018-2022
- Espevik and Nissen-Meyer (1986) *J. Immunol. Methods* **95**, 99
- Esclamado, R.M., Gown, A.M. and Vogel, A.M. (1986) *Am. J. Surg.* **152**, 376-385
- 20 Falk, K. et al. (1991) *Nature* **351**, 290
- Felgner, P.L., Gadek, T.R., Holm, M., Roman, R., Chan, W., Wenz, M., Northrop, J.P., Ringold, G.M. and Danielson, M. (1987) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **84**, 7413-7417
- Fisher, B. et al. (1989), *J. Clin. Oncol.* **7**, 250-261
- Gotch, F., Rothbard, J., Howland, K., Townsend, A., McMichael A., (1987) *Nature* **326**, 881
- 25 Graham, F.L. and van der Eb, A.J. (1973), *Virology* **52**, 456
- Green, M.R. (1991) *Annu. Rev. Cell Biol.* **7**, 559-599
- Haisma, H.J. et al. (1986) *J. Nucl. med.* **27**, 1890
- Hall, R. et al. (1984) *Nature* **311**, 379-387
- Hnatowich, D.J. et al. (1983) *J. Immunol. Meth.* **65**, 147-157
- 30 Hunt, D.F. et al. (1992) *Science* **255**, 1261
- Jones, P.T. et al. (1986) *Nature* **321**, 522-525
- Katano, M., Saxton, R.E., Cochran, A.J. and Irie, R.F. (1984) *J. Cancer Res. Clin. Oncol.* **108**, 197
- Kim, R.Y. and Wistow, G.J. (1992) *Exp. Eye Res.* **55**, 657-662
- Köhler, G. and Milstein C., (1975) *Nature* **256**, 495-497
- 35 Knuth, A. et al., (1992) *Cancer Surveys* **39-52**
- Kozak, M. (1987) *Nucleic Acids Res.* **15**, 8125-8148
- Ksander, B.R., Rubsamen, P.E., Olsen, K.R., Cousins, S.W. and Streilein, J.W. (1991) *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science*, **32**, 3198-3208
- Kwon, B.S., Halaban, R., Kim, G.S., Usack, L., Pomerantz, S. and Haq, A.K. (1987) *Mol. Biol. Med.* **4**, 339-355
- 40 Kwon, B.S., Chintammaneni, C., Kozak, C.A., Copeland, N.G., Gilbert, D.J., Jenkins, N., Barton, D., Francke, U., Kobayashi, Y. and Kim K.K. (1991) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, **88** 9228-9232
- Kyte, J. and Doolittle, R.F. (1982) *J. Mol. Biol.* **157**, 105-132
- Lenstra, J.A. et al. (1990), *Arch. Virol.* **110**, 1-24
- Loenen, W.A.M., de Vries, E., Gravestien, L.A., Hintzen, R.Q., van Lier, R.A.W. and Borst, J. (1991) *Eur. J. Immunol.* **22**, 447
- 45 MacPherson, (1973) *Soft Agar Techniques, Tissue Culture Methods and Applications*, Kruse and Paterson, eds., Academic Press, 276
- Maniatis et al., (1982, 1989) *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
- Mochii, M., Agata, K. and Eguchi, G. (1991) *Pigment Cell Res.* **4**, 41-47
- 50 Old, L., *Cancer Res.* (1981) **41**, 361-375
- Nijman et al. (1993), *Eur. J. Immunol.* **23**, 1215
- Padgett, R.A., Grabowski, P.J., Konarska, M.M., Seiler, S. and Sharp, P.A. (1986) *Ann. Rev. Biochem.* **55**, 119-1150
- Pearson, W.R. and Lipman, D.J. (1988) *Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA* **85**, 2444-2448
- 55 Proudfoot, N.J. and Brownlee, G.G. (1976) *Nature* **263**, 211-214
- Rodriguez, R.L. and Denhardt, D.T. (1988), ed., *Vectors: A survey of molecular cloning vectors and their uses*, Butterworths
- Rosenberg, S.A. et al. (1986), *Science* **223**, 1318-1321

- Ruppert, J. et al. (1993) Cell 74, 929
 Ruskin, B. et al. (1984) Cell 38, 317-331
 Sanger, F., Nicklen, S. and Coulson, A.R. (1977) Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA 74, 5463-5467
 Schwartz, R.H. (1992) Cell 71, 1065-1068
 5 Seed, B. and Aruffo, A.A. (1987) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 84, 3365
 Shilyansky, J. et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 91, 2829-2833, 1994.
 Smit, N., Le Poole, I., van den Wijngaard, R., Tigges, A., Westerhof, W. and Das, P. (1993) Arch. Dermatol. Res. 285, 356-365
 Topalian, S.L. et al. (1987), J. Immunol. Meth. 102, 127-141
 10 Townsend, A.R.M. and Bodmer H., (1989), Ann. Rev. Immunol. 7, 601-624
 Tsomides, T.J., Walker, B.D., Eisen, H.N. (1991) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 88, 11276
 van Muijen, G.N.P., Cornelissen, L.M.H.A., Jansen, C.F.J., Figdor, C.G., Johnson, J.P., Bröcker, E. and Ruiter, D.J. (1991) Clin. Expl. Metast. 9, 259-272
 Vennegoor, C., Hageman, Ph., van Nouthuys, H., Ruiter, D.J., Calafat, J., Ringens, P.J. and Rumke, Ph. (1988) Am. J. Pathol. 130, 179-192
 15 Vogel, A.M. and Esclamado, R.M. (1988) Cancer Res. 48, 1286-1294
 von Heijne, G. (1986) Nucleic Acids Res. 14, 4683-4690

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

5

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

(i) APPLICANT:

- (A) NAME: Akzo N.V.
(B) STREET: Velperweg 76
(C) CITY: Arnhem
(E) COUNTRY: The Netherlands
(F) POSTAL CODE (ZIP): 6824 BM
(G) TELEPHONE: 04120 - 66204
(H) TELEFAX: 04120 - 50592
(I) TELEX: 37503 akpha nl

(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: Melanoma associated antigenic polypeptide, epitopes thereof and vaccine against melanoma.

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 19

(iv) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:

- (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
(B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
(C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
(D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.25 (EPO)

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 2115 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: double
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA to mRNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO

(iii) ANTI-SENSE: NO

(vi) ORIGINAL SOURCE:

- (F) TISSUE TYPE: Melanoma
(G) CELL TYPE: Melanocyte

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
(B) LOCATION: 22..2005

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: misc_signal
(B) LOCATION: 1..81

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: misc_feature
(B) LOCATION: 1792..1870
(D) OTHER INFORMATION: /function= "transmembrane region"

(ix) FEATURE: (A) NAME/KEY: misc_binding
 (B) LOCATION: 262..264
 (D) OTHER INFORMATION: /bound_moiety= "carbohydrate"

(ix) FEATURE:
 (A) NAME/KEY: misc_binding
 (B) LOCATION: 337..339
 (D) OTHER INFORMATION: /bound_moiety= "carbohydrate"

(ix) FEATURE:
 (A) NAME/KEY: misc_binding
 (B) LOCATION: 352..354
 (D) OTHER INFORMATION: /bound_moiety= "carbohydrate"

(ix) FEATURE:
 (A) NAME/KEY: misc_binding
 (B) LOCATION: 982..984
 (D) OTHER INFORMATION: /bound_moiety= "carbohydrate"

(ix) FEATURE:
 (A) NAME/KEY: misc_binding
 (B) LOCATION: 1723..1725
 (D) OTHER INFORMATION: /bound_moiety= "carbohydrate"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 1:
 CGCGGAATCC GGAAGAACAC A ATG GAT CTG GTG CTA AAA AGA TGC CTT CTT 51
 Met Asp Leu Val Leu Lys Arg Cys Leu Leu
 1 5 10
 CAT TTG GCT GTG ATA GGT GCT TTG CTG GCT GTG GGG GCT ACA AAA GTA 99
 His Leu Ala Val Ile Gly Ala Leu Leu Ala Val Gly Ala Thr Lys Val
 15 20 25
 CCC AGA AAC CAG GAC TGG CTT GGT GTC TCA AGG CAA CTC AGA ACC AAA 147
 Pro Arg Asn Gln Asp Trp Leu Gly Val Ser Arg Gln Leu Arg Thr Lys
 30 35 40
 GCC TGG AAC AGG CAG CTG TAT CCA GAG TGG ACA GAA GCC CAG AGA CTT 195
 Ala Trp Asn Arg Gln Leu Tyr Pro Glu Trp Thr Glu Ala Gln Arg Leu
 45 50 55
 GAC TGC TGG AGA GGT GGT CAA GTG TCC CTC AAG GTC AGT AAT GAT GGG 243
 Asp Cys Trp Arg Gly Gly Gln Val Ser Leu Lys Val Ser Asn Asp Gly
 60 65 70
 CCT ACA CTG ATT GGT GCA AAT GCC TCC TTC TCT ATT GCC TTG AAC TTC 291
 Pro Thr Leu Ile Gly Ala Asn Ala Ser Phe Ser Ile Ala Leu Asn Phe
 75 80 85 90
 CCT GGA AGC CAA AAG GTA TTG CCA GAT GGG CAG GTT ATC TGG GTC AAC 339
 Pro Gly Ser Gln Lys Val Leu Pro Asp Gly Gln Val Ile Trp Val Asn
 95 100 105

5	AAT	ACC	ATC	ATC	AAT	GGG	AGC	CAG	GTG	TGG	GGA	GGA	CAG	CCA	GTG	TAT	387
	Asn	Thr	Ile	Ile	Asn	Gly	Ser	Gln	Val	Trp	Gly	Gly	Gln	Pro	Val	Tyr	
	0				115				120								
10	CCC	CAG	GAA	ACT	GAC	GAT	GCC	TGC	ATC	TTC	CCT	GAT	GGT	GGA	CCT	TGC	435
	Pro	Gln	Glu	Thr	Asp	Asp	Ala	Cys	Ile	Phe	Pro	Asp	Gly	Gly	Pro	Cys	
		125					130					135					
	CCA	TCT	GGC	TCT	TGG	TCT	CAG	AAG	AGA	AGC	TTT	GTT	TAT	GTC	TGG	AAG	483
	Pro	Ser	Gly	Ser	Trp	Ser	Gln	Lys	Arg	Ser	Phe	Val	Tyr	Val	Trp	Lys	
		140					145				150						
15	ACC	TGG	GGC	CAA	TAC	TGG	CAA	GTT	CTA	GGG	GGC	CCA	GTG	TCT	GGG	CTG	531
	Thr	Trp	Gly	Gln	Tyr	Trp	Gln	Val	Leu	Gly	Gly	Pro	Val	Ser	Gly	Leu	
	155					160				165						170	
20	AGC	ATT	GGG	ACA	GGC	AGG	GCA	ATG	CTG	GGC	ACA	CAC	ACC	ATG	GAA	GTG	579
	Ser	Ile	Gly	Thr	Gly	Arg	Ala	Met	Leu	Gly	Thr	His	Thr	Met	Glu	Val	
					175				180						185		
	ACT	GTC	TAC	CAT	CGC	CGG	GGA	TCC	CGG	AGC	TAT	GTG	CCT	CTT	GCT	CAT	627
	Thr	Val	Tyr	His	Arg	Arg	Gly	Ser	Arg	Ser	Tyr	Val	Pro	Leu	Ala	His	
				190					195					200			
25	TCC	AGC	TCA	GCC	TTC	ACC	ATT	ACT	GAC	CAG	GTG	CCT	TTC	TCC	GTG	AGC	675
	Ser	Ser	Ser	Ala	Phe	Thr	Ile	Thr	Asp	Gln	Val	Pro	Phe	Ser	Val	Ser	
			205					210					215				
30	GTG	TCC	CAG	TTG	CGG	GCC	TTG	GAT	GGA	GGG	AAC	AAG	CAC	TTC	CTG	AGA	723
	Val	Ser	Gln	Leu	Arg	Ala	Leu	Asp	Gly	Gly	Asn	Lys	His	Phe	Leu	Arg	
		220					225					230					
	AAT	CAG	CCT	CTG	ACC	TTT	GCC	CTC	CAG	CTC	CAT	GAC	CCC	AGT	GGC	TAT	771
	Asn	Gln	Pro	Leu	Thr	Phe	Ala	Leu	Gln	Leu	His	Asp	Pro	Ser	Gly	Tyr	
	235					240					245					250	
35	CTG	GCT	GAA	GCT	GAC	CTC	TCC	TAC	ACC	TGG	GAC	TTT	GGA	GAC	AGT	AGT	819
	Leu	Ala	Glu	Ala	Asp	Leu	Ser	Tyr	Thr	Trp	Asp	Phe	Gly	Asp	Ser	Ser	
					255					260					265		
40	GGA	ACC	CTG	ATC	TCT	CGG	GCA	CTT	GTG	GTC	ACT	CAT	ACT	TAC	CTG	GAG	867
	Gly	Thr	Leu	Ile	Ser	Arg	Ala	Leu	Val	Val	Thr	His	Thr	Tyr	Leu	Glu	
				270					275					280			
	CCT	GGC	CCA	GTC	ACT	GCC	CAG	GTG	GTC	CTG	CAG	GCT	GCC	ATT	CCT	CTC	915
	Pro	Gly	Pro	Val	Thr	Ala	Gln	Val	Val	Leu	Gln	Ala	Ala	Ile	Pro	Leu	
			285					290					295				
45	ACC	TCC	TGT	GGC	TCC	TCC	CCA	GTT	CCA	GGC	ACC	ACA	GAT	GGG	CAC	AGG	963
	Thr	Ser	Cys	Gly	Ser	Ser	Pro	Val	Pro	Gly	Thr	Thr	Asp	Gly	His	Arg	
		300					305					310					
	CCA	ACT	GCA	GAG	GCC	CCT	AAC	ACC	ACA	GCT	GGC	CAA	GTG	CCT	ACT	ACA	1011
	Pro	Thr	Ala	Glu	Ala	Pro	Asn	Thr	Thr	Ala	Gly	Gln	Val	Pro	Thr	Thr	
50		315				320					325					330	

5 GAA GTT GTG GGT ACT ACA CCT GGT CAG GCG CCA ACT GCA GAG CCC TCT 1059
 Glu Val Val Gly Thr Thr Pro Gly Gln Ala Pro Thr Ala Glu Pro Ser
 335 340 345

10 GGA ACC ACA TCT GTG CAG GTG CCA ACC ACT GAA GTC ATA AGC ACT GCA 1107
 Gly Thr Thr Ser Val Gln Val Pro Thr Thr Glu Val Ile Ser Thr Ala
 350 355 360

15 CCT GTG CAG ATG CCA ACT GCA GAG AGC ACA GGT ATG ACA CCT GAG AAG 1155
 Pro Val Gln Met Pro Thr Ala Glu Ser Thr Gly Met Thr Pro Glu Lys
 365 370 375

20 GTG CCA GTT TCA GAG GTC ATG GGT ACC ACA CTG GCA GAG ATG TCA ACT 1203
 Val Pro Val Ser Glu Val Met Gly Thr Thr Leu Ala Glu Met Ser Thr
 380 385 390

25 CCA GAG GCT ACA GGT ATG ACA CCT GCA GAG GTA TCA ATT GTG GTG CTT 1251
 Pro Glu Ala Thr Gly Met Thr Pro Ala Glu Val Ser Ile Val Val Leu
 395 400 405 410

30 TCT GGA ACC ACA GCT GCA CAG GTA ACA ACT ACA GAG TGG GTG GAG ACC 1299
 Ser Gly Thr Thr Ala Ala Gln Val Thr Thr Thr Glu Trp Val Glu Thr
 415 420 425

35 ACA GCT AGA GAG CTA CCT ATC CCT GAG CCT GAA GGT CCA GAT GCC AGC 1347
 Thr Ala Arg Glu Leu Pro Ile Pro Glu Pro Glu Gly Pro Asp Ala Ser
 430 435 440

40 TCA ATC ATG TCT ACG GAA AGT ATT ACA GGT TCC CTG GGC CCC CTG CTG 1395
 Ser Ile Met Ser Thr Glu Ser Ile Thr Gly Ser Leu Gly Pro Leu Leu
 445 450 455

45 GAT GGT ACA GCC ACC TTA AGG CTG GTG AAG AGA CAA GTC CCC CTG GAT 1443
 Asp Gly Thr Ala Thr Leu Arg Leu Val Lys Arg Gln Val Pro Leu Asp
 460 465 470

50 TGT GTT CTG TAT CGA TAT GGT TCC TTT TCC GTC ACC CTG GAC ATT GTC 1491
 Cys Val Leu Tyr Arg Tyr Gly Ser Phe Ser Val Thr Leu Asp Ile Val
 475 480 485 490

55 CAG GGT ATT GAA AGT GCC GAG ATC CTG CAG GCT GTG CCG TCC GGT GAG 1539
 Gln Gly Ile Glu Ser Ala Glu Ile Leu Gln Ala Val Pro Ser Gly Glu
 495 500 505

60 GGG GAT GCA TTT GAG CTG ACT GTG TCC TGC CAA GGC GGG CTG CCC AAG 1587
 Gly Asp Ala Phe Glu Leu Thr Val Ser Cys Gln Gly Gly Leu Pro Lys
 510 515 520

65 GAA GCC TGC ATG GAG ATC TCA TCG CCA GGG TGC CAG CCC CCT GCC CAG 1635
 Glu Ala Cys Met Glu Ile Ser Ser Pro Gly Cys Gln Pro Pro Ala Gln
 525 530 535

70 CGG CTG TGC CAG CCT GTG CTA CCC AGC CCA GCC TGC CAG CTG GTT CTG 1683
 Arg Leu Cys Gln Pro Val Leu Pro Ser Pro Ala Cys Gln Leu Val Leu
 540 545 550

55

5 CAC CAG ATA CTG AAG GGT GGC TCG GGG ACA TAC TGC CTC AAT GTG TCT 1731
 His Gln Ile Leu Lys Gly Gly Ser Gly Thr Tyr Cys Leu Asn Val Ser
 555 560 565 570
 CTG GCT GAT ACC AAC AGC CTG GCA GTG GTC AGC ACC CAG CTT ATC ATG 1779
 10 Leu Ala Asp Thr Asn Ser Leu Ala Val Val Ser Thr Gln Leu Ile Met
 575 580 585
 CCT GGT CAA GAA GCA GGC CTT GGG CAG GTT CCG CTG ATC GTG GGC ATC 1827
 Pro Gly Gln Glu Ala Gly Leu Gly Gln Val Pro Leu Ile Val Gly Ile
 590 595 600
 15 TTG CTG GTG TTG ATG GCT GTG GTC CTT GCA TCT CTG ATA TAT AGG CGC 1875
 Leu Leu Val Leu Met Ala Val Val Leu Ala Ser Leu Ile Tyr Arg Arg
 605 610 615
 AGA CTT ATG AAG CAA GAC TTC TCC GTA CCC CAG TTG CCA CAT AGC AGC 1923
 20 Arg Leu Met Lys Gln Asp Phe Ser Val Pro Gln Leu Pro His Ser Ser
 620 625 630
 AGT CAC TGG CTG CGT CTA CCC CGC ATC TTC TGC TCT TGT CCC ATT GGT 1971
 Ser His Trp Leu Arg Leu Pro Arg Ile Phe Cys Ser Cys Pro Ile Gly
 635 640 645 650
 25 GAG AAT AGC CCC CTC CTC AGT GGG CAG CAG GTC T GAGTACTCTC 2015
 Glu Asn Ser Pro Leu Leu Ser Gly Gln Val
 655 660
 ATATGATGCT GTGATTTCCT TGGAGTTGAC AGAAACACCT ATATTTCCCC CAGTCTTCCC 207
 30 TGGGAGACTA CTATTAAGTG AAATAAATAC TCAGAGCCTG 2115

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 661 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 2:

Met Asp Leu Val Leu Lys Arg Cys Leu Leu His Leu Ala Val Ile Gly
 1 5 10 15
 45 Ala Leu Leu Ala Val Gly Ala Thr Lys Val Pro Arg Asn Gln Asp Trp
 20 25 30
 Leu Gly Val Ser Arg Gln Leu Arg Thr Lys Ala Trp Asn Arg Gln Leu
 35 40 45
 50 Tyr Pro Glu Trp Thr Glu Ala Gln Arg Leu Asp Cys Trp Arg Gly Gly
 50 55 60

5 Gln Val Ser Leu Lys Val Ser Asn Asp Gly Pro Thr Leu Ile Gly Ala
 65 70 75 80
 Asn Ala Ser Phe Ser Ile Ala Leu Asn Phe Pro Gly Ser Gln Lys Val
 85 90 95
 10 Leu Pro Asp Gly Gln Val Ile Trp Val Asn Asn Thr Ile Ile Asn Gly
 100 105 110
 Ser Gln Val Trp Gly Gly Gln Pro Val Tyr Pro Gln Glu Thr Asp Asp
 115 120 125
 15 Ala Cys Ile Phe Pro Asp Gly Gly Pro Cys Pro Ser Gly Ser Trp Ser
 130 135 140
 Gln Lys Arg Ser Phe Val Tyr Val Trp Lys Thr Trp Gly Gln Tyr Trp
 145 150 155 160
 20 Gln Val Leu Gly Gly Pro Val Ser Gly Leu Ser Ile Gly Thr Gly Arg
 165 170 175
 Ala Met Leu Gly Thr His Thr Met Glu Val Thr Val Tyr His Arg Arg
 180 185 190
 25 Gly Ser Arg Ser Tyr Val Pro Leu Ala His Ser Ser Ser Ala Phe Thr
 195 200 205
 Ile Thr Asp Gln Val Pro Phe Ser Val Ser Val Ser Gln Leu Arg Ala
 210 215 220
 30 Leu Asp Gly Gly Asn Lys His Phe Leu Arg Asn Gln Pro Leu Thr Phe
 225 230 235 240
 Ala Leu Gln Leu His Asp Pro Ser Gly Tyr Leu Ala Glu Ala Asp Leu
 245 250 255
 35 Ser Tyr Thr Trp Asp Phe Gly Asp Ser Ser Gly Thr Leu Ile Ser Arg
 260 265 270
 Ala Leu Val Val Thr His Thr Tyr Leu Glu Pro Gly Pro Val Thr Ala
 275 280 285
 40 Gln Val Val Leu Gln Ala Ala Ile Pro Leu Thr Ser Cys Gly Ser Ser
 290 295 300
 Pro Val Pro Gly Thr Thr Asp Gly His Arg Pro Thr Ala Glu Ala Pro
 305 310 315 320
 Asn Thr Thr Ala Gly Gln Val Pro Thr Thr Glu Val Val Gly Thr Thr
 325 330 335
 50 Pro Gly Gln Ala Pro Thr Ala Glu Pro Ser Gly Thr Thr Ser Val Gln
 340 345 350
 Val Pro Thr Thr Glu Val Ile Ser Thr Ala Pro Val Gln Met Pro Thr
 355 360 365

5 Ala Glu Ser Thr Gly Met Thr Pro Glu Lys Val Pro Val Ser Glu Val
 370 375 380
 Met Gly Thr Thr Leu Ala Glu Met Ser Thr Pro Glu Ala Thr Gly Met
 385 390 395 400
 10 Thr Pro Ala Glu Val Ser Ile Val Val Leu Ser Gly Thr Thr Ala Ala
 405 410 415
 Gln Val Thr Thr Thr Glu Trp Val Glu Thr Thr Ala Arg Glu Leu Pro
 420 425 430
 15 Ile Pro Glu Pro Glu Gly Pro Asp Ala Ser Ser Ile Met Ser Thr Glu
 435 440 445
 Ser Ile Thr Gly Ser Leu Gly Pro Leu Leu Asp Gly Thr Ala Thr Leu
 450 455 460
 20 Arg Leu Val Lys Arg Gln Val Pro Leu Asp Cys Val Leu Tyr Arg Tyr
 465 470 475 480
 Gly Ser Phe Ser Val Thr Leu Asp Ile Val Gln Gly Ile Glu Ser Ala
 485 490 495
 25 Glu Ile Leu Gln Ala Val Pro Ser Gly Glu Gly Asp Ala Phe Glu Leu
 500 505 510
 Thr Val Ser Cys Gln Gly Gly Leu Pro Lys Glu Ala Cys Met Glu Ile
 515 520 525
 30 Ser Ser Pro Gly Cys Gln Pro Pro Ala Gln Arg Leu Cys Gln Pro Val
 530 535 540
 35 Leu Pro Ser Pro Ala Cys Gln Leu Val Leu His Gln Ile Leu Lys Gly
 545 550 555 560
 Gly Ser Gly Thr Tyr Cys Leu Asn Val Ser Leu Ala Asp Thr Asn Ser
 565 570 575
 40 Leu Ala Val Val Ser Thr Gln Leu Ile Met Pro Gly Gln Glu Ala Gly
 580 585 590
 Leu Gly Gln Val Pro Leu Ile Val Gly Ile Leu Leu Val Leu Met Ala
 595 600 605
 45 Val Val Leu Ala Ser Leu Ile Tyr Arg Arg Arg Leu Met Lys Gln Asp
 610 615 620
 Phe Ser Val Pro Gln Leu Pro His Ser Ser Ser His Trp Leu Arg Leu
 625 630 635 640
 50 Pro Arg Ile Phe Cys Ser Cys Pro Ile Gly Glu Asn Ser Pro Leu Leu
 645 650 655
 Ser Gly Gln Gln Val
 660

55

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 30 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA to mRNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO

(iii) ANTI-SENSE: NO

(ix) FEATURE: (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
(B) LOCATION: 1..30

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 3:

CTG CTG GAT GGT ACA GCC ACC TTA AGG CTG
Leu Leu Asp Gly Thr Ala Thr Leu Arg Leu
1 5 10

30

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 4:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 10 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 4:

Leu Leu Asp Gly Thr Ala Thr Leu Arg Leu
1 5 10

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 5:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 30 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO

(iii) ANTI-SENSE: NO

(ix) FEATURE: (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
(B) LOCATION: 1..30

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 5:

GTA TTG CCA GAT GGG CAG GTT ATC TGG GTC
 Val Leu Pro Asp Gly Gln Val Ile Trp Val
 1 5 10

30

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 6:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 10 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 6:

Val Leu Pro Asp Gly Gln Val Ile Trp Val
 1 5 10

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 7:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 24 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA to mRNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO

(iv) ANTI-SENSE: NO

(vi) ORIGINAL SOURCE:

- (F) TISSUE TYPE: Melanoma
- (G) CELL TYPE: Melanocyte

(ix) FEATURE:

(A) NAME/KEY: CDS

(B) LOCATION: 1..24

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 7:

ACC TGG GGC CAA TAC TGG CAA GTT
 Thr Trp Gly Gln Tyr Trp Gln Val
 1 5

24

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 8:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 8 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 8:

Thr Trp Gly Gln Tyr Trp Gln Val
 1 5

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 9:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 36 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA to mRNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO

(iv) ANTI-SENSE: NO

(vi) ORIGINAL SOURCE:

- (F) TISSUE TYPE: Melanoma
- (G) CELL TYPE: Melanocyt

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
- (B) LOCATION:1..36

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: protein_bind
- (B) LOCATION:1..33

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: protein_bind
- (B) LOCATION:7..36

(ix) FEATURE: (A) NAME/KEY: protein_bind
 (B) LOCATION:7..33

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: protein_bind
- (B) LOCATION:10..36

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 9:

GTC TGG AAG ACC TGG GGC CAA TAC TGG CAA GTT CTA
 Val Trp Lys Thr Trp Gly Gln Tyr Trp Gln Val Leu
 1 5 10

36

5 (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 10:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 12 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

10 (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 10:

Val Trp Lys Thr Trp Gly Gln Tyr Trp Gln Val Leu
1 5 10

15 (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 11:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 29 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

25 (ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: misc_feature
(B) LOCATION: 7..12
(D) OTHER INFORMATION: /label= EcoRI-site

30 (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 11:

TATCTAGAAT TCTGCACCAG ATACTGAAG

29

35 (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 12:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 32 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

40 (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: misc_feature
(B) LOCATION: 7..12
(D) OTHER INFORMATION: /label= EcoRI-site

45 (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 12:

50 TATCTAGAAT TCTGCAAGAT GCCCAGCATC AG

32

5 (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 13:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 20 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

10

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 13:

15

CTTCTTGACC AGGCATGATA

20

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 14:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 20 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

20

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

25

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 14:

TGTGAGAAGA ATCCCAGGCA

20

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 15:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 36 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

35

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 15:

40

GCTTATCATG CCTGTGCCTG GATTCTTCTC ACAGGT

36

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 16:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 20 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

45

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

50

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO

55

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:16:

CATGGAAGTG ACTGTCTACC

20

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 17:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 32 base pairs

(B) TYPE: nucleic acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 17:

CTGAGCGAAT TCGGAACCTG TAATACTTTC CG

32

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 18:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 31 base pairs

(B) TYPE: nucleic acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 18:

CTGAGCGAAT TCGTGAAGAG ACAAGTCCCC C

31

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 19:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 22 base pairs

(B) TYPE: nucleic acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 19:

TCACAGCATC ATATGAGAGT AC

22

Claims

1. Melanoma associated antigen, characterized in that it comprises the aminoacid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
2. Nucleotide sequence, characterized in that it comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding the antigen according to claim 1.
3. Nucleotide sequence according to claim 2, characterized in that it comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
4. Immunogenic peptide, characterized in that it comprises an immunogenic fragment of the antigen according to claim 1.
5. Immunogenic peptide, characterized in that it comprises the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of L-L-D-G-T-A-T-L-R-L, V-L-P-D-G-Q-V-I-W-V, T-W-G-Q-Y-W-Q-V, V-W-K-T-W-G-Q-Y-W-Q-V, K-T-W-G-Q-Y-W-Q-V-L, K-T-W-G-Q-Y-W-Q-V and T-W-G-Q-Y-W-Q-V-L.
6. Nucleotide sequence, characterized in that it comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding the peptide according to claim 5.
7. Nucleotide sequence according to claim 6, characterized in that it comprises the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of the sequences of SEQ ID NO: 3, 5, 7 and 9.
8. Test kit for the detection of melanoma cells, characterized in that it comprises one or two primers and a labeled probe directed to the nucleotide sequence according to claim 2 or 3 or its complementary sequence.
9. Method for the detection of melanoma cells, characterized in that it comprises the steps of:
 - a. obtaining a sample from a patient;
 - b. subjecting the sample to amplification of the nucleotide sequence according to claim 2 or 3 or a part of said sequence;
 - c. reacting amplified nucleic acid with a complementary labelled probe;
 - d. detecting the label.
10. Cloning vehicle comprising the nucleotide sequence of any one of claims 2, 3, 6 or 7.
11. Host cell characterized in that it is transfected or transformed with the cloning vehicle according to claim 10, preferably cotransfected with a cloning vehicle comprising the nucleotide sequence coding for an MHC class I allele.
12. Host cell according to claim 11, characterized in that the host cell is selected from the group consisting of murine EL4 and P8.15 cells and human BLM cells.
13. Host cell according to claim 11 or 12, characterized in that it is an antigen presenting cell.
14. Host cell according to any of claims 11-13, characterized in that it also produces co-stimulating molecules.
15. Vaccine characterized in that it comprises the antigen according to claim 1 or an epitope thereof.
16. Vaccine, characterized in that it comprises the peptide according to claim 4.
17. Vaccine according to claim 26, characterized in that it comprises the peptide according to claim 5.
18. Vaccine according to any of claims 15 to 17, characterized in that the peptide is mixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
19. Vaccine according to any of claims 15 to 17, characterized in that it comprises an antigen presenting cell,

which has been preloaded with the peptide.

20. Vaccine, characterized in that it comprises host cells according to any of claims 11 to 13.

21. Vaccine, characterized in that it comprises the nucleotide sequence according to any of claims 2, 3, 6 or 7.

22. Vaccine, characterized in that it comprises the T cell receptor against the peptides according to any of claims 1, 4 or 5 or cells expressing said T cell receptor.

23. Vaccine according to any of claims 15 to 22, characterized in that it also comprises one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of an adjuvant, one or more cytokines, antibodies directed against CD2, CD3, CD27, CD28 or other T cell surface antigens and helper epitopes to stimulate CD4+ or CD8+ T cells.

24. Method for the generation of antigen reactive tumor infiltrating lymphocytes, characterized in that it comprises the steps of:

- a. taking a sample of a melanoma from a patient;
- b. isolating the tumor infiltrating lymphocytes from the sample;
- c. reacting said lymphocytes with the antigen according to claim 1;
- d. isolating the lymphocytes binding to said antigen.

25. Tumor infiltrating lymphocytes characterized in that they are capable of binding to the antigen according to claim 1.

26. Melanoma cells capable of expression of the antigen according to claim 1, characterized in that they have been transfected with a cloning vehicle having a nucleotide sequence coding for a lymphokine.

27. Vaccine, characterized in that it comprises tumor infiltrating lymphocytes according to claim 25 and/or the melanoma cells according to claim 26.

28. Conjugate of a peptide and a detectable marker, characterized in that the peptide according to any of claims 1, 4 or 5 is used.

29. Conjugate according to claim 28, characterized in that the detectable marker is a radionuclide.

30. Antibody, characterized in that it is directed to the peptide according to claim 4 or 5.

31. Vaccine, characterized in that it comprises the antibody according to claim 30.

32. Method for monitoring immunotherapy, characterized in that the presence of antibodies directed to the peptide according claim 4 or 5, is detected from the serum of a patient.

33. Kit for the detection of antibodies according to claim 30, characterized in that it comprises conjugates according to claim 28 or 29.

Figure 1

Intron Size (nt)	
A	102
CATGCCTGgtaggtcc.....agacactgagtgagcagtcctgggattcttctcacagGTCAAG	
A'	81
CATGCCTGgtaggtcc.....gggcagctggcaagcagcagacactgagtgagcagTGCCTGG	

Figure 2

```

#                                     #
Gp100    PLDCVLYRYGSFSVTLDIVQGIESAEILQAVPS***GEGDAFELTVSCQGGLPKEA
Pme117   -----
RPE1     -----L-----*S-----S-----S-----
MMP115   -TG-----T--TE-N-----VA-V-V--AAPE-S-NSV----T-E-S--E-V

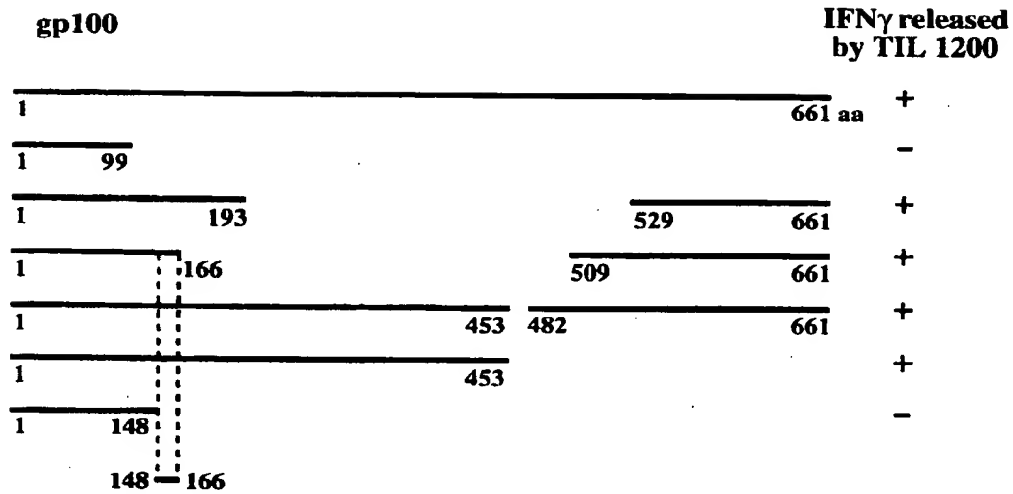
#           #           #           #           #
Gp100    CMEISSPGCQPPAQRCLCQPVLPSPACQLVLHQILKGGSGTYCLNVSLADTNSLAVV
Pme117   -----
RPE1     --D-----L-----P-----V-----A-----M-
MMP115   -TVVADAE-RTAQMOT-SA-A-A-G-----R-DFNQ*-L-----NG-G---A

Gp100    STQLIMP*****GQEAGLGQVPLIVGILLVLMVAVLASLIYRRRLMKQ**DFSV
Pme117   -----VPGILLT-----R-----**-----
RPE1     ---V-----*****-----R-A--F-----T-LL-----GSEVPL
MMP115   --HVAVGSIPSRQWHHAHRGAALGTAH-RCSGHRCLH-PPCEVQPAAAHSPHGPPA

Gp100    PQLPHSSSHWLRLPRI*FCSCPIGENSPLLSGQQV
Pme117   -----*-----
RPE1     -----GRTQ-----WV*-R-----SK-----
MMP115   ---AAPRCYPAFAAAPG-WGGSQWRKQ-PARANA-

```

A



B

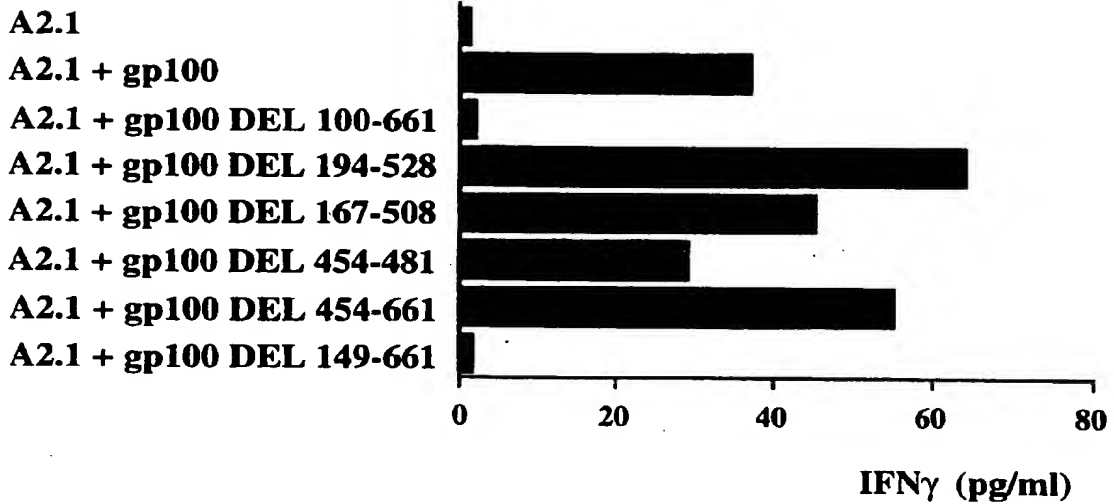
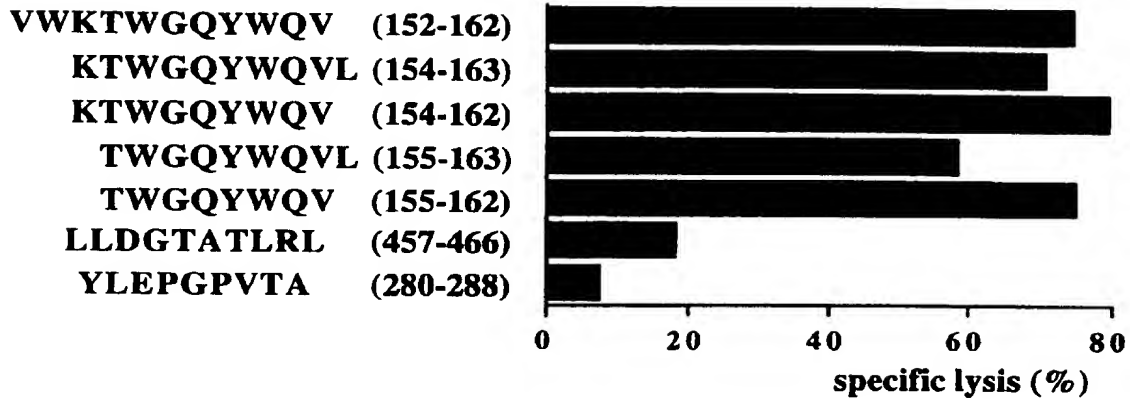
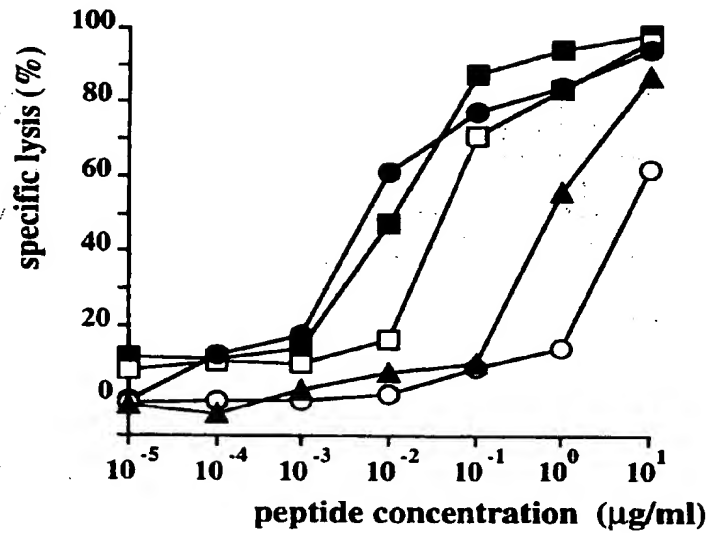


figure 3

A

peptides:

**B**

peptides:



figure 4

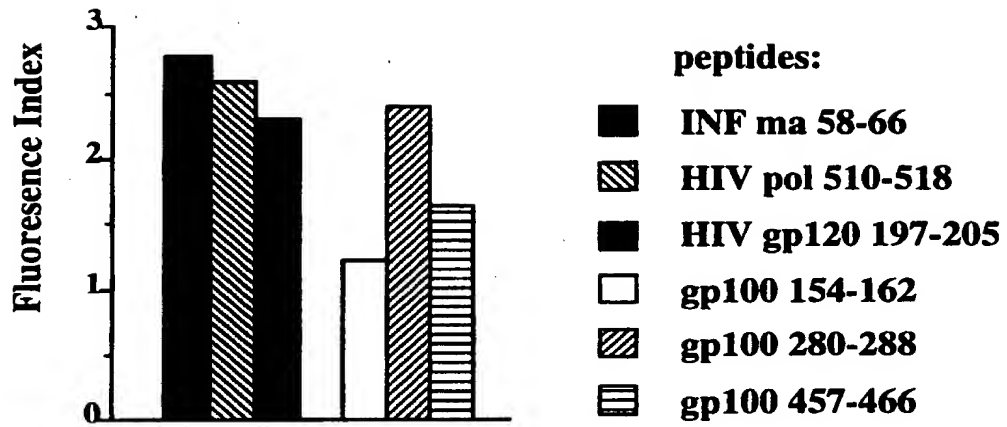


figure 5



European Patent
Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention EP 95 20 0348 shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PATHOLOGY, vol. 143, page 1579 GOSSE J. ADEMA ET AL. 'Melanocyte lineage-specific antigens recognized by monoclonal antibodies NKI-beteb, HMB-50, and HMB-45 are encoded by a single cDNA' * page 1579, left column, paragraph 1 - page 1580, left column, paragraph 1 * * page 1580, right column, paragraph 4 - page 1582, right column, paragraph 1 * * page 1583, left column, paragraph 1 - page 1584, left column, paragraph 2 * ---	1, 4, 5, 30	C12N15/12 C12N15/85 C07K14/705 C12Q1/68 C12N5/10 C12N5/06 A61K39/395 A61K35/12 A61K48/00 C12P21/08 G01N33/53
X	EMBL Database Accession number M32295; 26 November 1990 Vogel a.: 'Human 95 Kd melanocyte-specific secreted glycoprotein mRNA, 3' end.' * the whole document * --- -/-	2, 3, 6, 7	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) C07K C12N A61K C12P C12Q G01N
INCOMPLETE SEARCH			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the provisions of the European Patent Convention to such an extent that it is not possible to carry out a meaningful search into the state of the art on the basis of some of the claims</p> <p>Claims searched completely:</p> <p>Claims searched incompletely:</p> <p>Claims not searched:</p> <p>Reason for the limitation of the search:</p> <p>see sheet C</p>			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 26 April 1995	Examiner Montero Lopez, B
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure F : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons * : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 150 (3.92) (P01/97)

European Patent
Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 95 20 0348

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	
X	KEYSTONE SYMPOSIUM ON CELLULAR IMMUNITY AND THE IMMUNOTHERAPY OF CANCER, TAOS, NEW MEXICO, USA, MARCH 17-24, 1993. J CELL BIOCHEM SUPPL 0 (17 PART D). 1993. 107. CODEN: JCBSD7, ADEMA G J ET AL 'IDENTIFICATION OF THE MELANOMA ASSOCIATED ANTIGENS RECOGNIZED BY MOABS NK1 - BETEB AND HMB-45.' * abstract NZ 200 *	2, 6, 7
D, A	PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF USA, vol. 88, WASHINGTON US, page 9228 BYOUNG S. KWON ET AL. 'A melanocyte-specific gene, Pmel 17, maps near the silver coat color locus on mouse chromosome 10 and is in a syntenic region on human chromosome 12' * abstract; figure 1 *	1-7
P, X	J. EXP. MED. (1994), 179(3), 1005-9 CODEN: JEMEA; ISSN: 0022-1007, 1 March 1994 BAKKER, ALEXANDER B. H. ET AL 'Melanocyte lineage-specific antigen gp100 is recognized by melanoma -derived tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes' * summary * * page 1006, left column, paragraph 4 * * page 1006, right column, last paragraph - page 1008, right column, last paragraph *	1-7, 10-13, 24-26
---		---
-/--		-/--



European Patent
Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 95 20 0348

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
P,X	<p>J. BIOL. CHEM. (1994), 269(31), 20126-33 CODEN: JBCHA3; ISSN: 0021-9258, 5 August 1994 ADEMA, GOSSE J. ET AL 'Molecular characterization of the melanocyte lineage-specific antigen gp100' * abstract * * page 20126, right column, paragraph 3 * * page 20127, right column, paragraph 1 - page 20128, right column, paragraph 1; figure 6 * * page 20131, left column, paragraph 2 - right column, paragraph 2 * * page 20132, left column, paragraph 2 *</p> <p>-----</p>	1-3,6,7, 10,11	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)



EP 95 20 0348

- C -

Remark : Although claim 9 is directed to a diagnostic method practised on the human/animal body (Art. 52(4) EPC) the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound.